FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SAUDI PLANNING MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PY151309 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1940 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Mar (TELAM) -- Saudi Planning Minister Hisham Muhyi ad-Din Nazir arrived here this afternoon on a 4-day official visit. He was declared guest of honor by the Argentine Government and will be received by President Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri on Monday. At Ezeiza International Airport the Saudi minister was met by Planning Secretary Brig Gen Jose Miret who welcomed him on behalf of the government. Miret said: In an increasingly interdependent world where distance is no longer an obstacle, the Argentine Government attaches great significance to your visit because we are certain that it will be instrumental in strengthening our already firm bilateral relations and in consolidating our ties of friendship and cooperation. Miret added: This is why the Argentine Government has declared you guest of honor and I am happy to present to you the respective document and to convey to you special greetings from the president of the nation and our desire for a happy stay.

In expressing thanks, the Saudi minister said: I want to convey to the people and government of Argentina the good wishes of the king and people of the Saudi Kingdom. I want to state that this visit will mark another stage in the series of visits between officials of the two countries to consolidate their political and economic relations. The Saudi Kingdom seeks to take advantage of the Argentine experience in the economic field.

In reply to newsmen, Minister Nazir said that he will brief Argentine Government officials on the development level sought by his country and will also find out about possibilities existing in Argentina. He added: Trade between the two countries is still small and we believe it will be to their mutual benefit to intensify it. Many fields in Saudi Arabia are in a developing stage and perhaps there will be interest in Argentina in contributing with other countries to developing those fields. Asked if he had specific investment plans, the minister said he did not have any. He said: I have not brought a specific proposal. The Saudi minister is accompanied by his wife, (Amira Badawi), and by an official entourage consisting of high-ranking officials of the Saudi Planning Ministry. Minister Nazir, who will stay in the country until Wednesday, will hold talks and work meetings with Brigadier General Miret, will exchange views with other high-ranking government officials and will be received in a special audience on Monday by President Galtieri.

ENDERS' BRIEF VISIT CLAIMED 'SIGNIFICANT'

PY160040 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 10 Mar 82 p 6

[Editorial: "Results of Enders' Visit"]

[Text] Although brief, the visit that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Thomas Enders paid to our country as part of a tour through other countries in the region was quite significant. This is so because of the rank of the visitor and because of the undeniably important issues that were discussed with high-ranking government officials. It is obvious that all important issues were reviewed in these meetings. Therefore, it is hoped that there were more points of agreement than disagreement.

The good relations between the two countries cannot be affected by disagreements because it would be unreal to contend that the political policies or behavior of a country should be the exact copy to the other. The two countries have their own problems for which they are trying to find solutions, but they also have common problems for which shared solutions should be found. There are also bilateral matters. Ways should be found to balance out claims and concessions in bilateral matters.

The Americas as a whole are now confronting the defense of their way of life. The threat is real but its degree of intensity varies with each country. Argentina has defeated subversion. The United States feels subversion close to its borders but due to the risks involved and considering its economic and military potential is forced to use a tactic and strategy different from ours. No doubt we could only be held to commitments which are less demanding -- on degree and conditions -- than those of the United States. This is probably where disagreements took place, disagreements not on basic concepts but on execution.

The matter of our nuclear development was probably not absent from the conversations with Mr Enders. The two countries opinions on the type of nuclear construction do not agree completely because Washington does not trust the control regulations accepted by Argentina. Therefore, this matter will continue to be debated in the future.

In another aspect of bilateral relations, the almost chronic trade deficit with the United States requires rectification. This is up to the United States by opening and enlarging the opportunity for Argentine exports in order to balance the deficit. Up to now, a large part of, even the whole surplus of trade with the USSR has served to compensate for this deficit. It is not a good policy to maintain this type of triangular mortgage, curtailing the use of profits from our exports. The government should also not accept the constant closure or contraction of markets.

The growing understanding showed by current Washington officials in relation to our treatment of the people responsible for Marxist revolution and penetration has done a great deal to clear up the misunderstanding of prior years and has helped in the agreement expressed by Mr Enders during a declaration to reporters. The reservations included in the declaration by the U.S. assistant secretary of state that "almost" everything said was agreeable make one suppose that there are disagreements. We can speculate that since there was no precise information, the real picture is not much different from what we have said.

In summary, it should be pointed out that it is truly pleasing that there is plenty of agreement, since lack of unity in the Americas is a good chance and the best weapon for the subversive forces to break up the common front of the Americas, a continent opposed to foreign interference and its local supporters.

The disagreements will also have to be solved through equitable measures. The success of Mr Enders' visit among us depends on these solutions by showing a clear understanding of inter-American matters. Regarding these matters, the distinguished visitor had already shown this ability before this visit, and as of his stay in Buenos Aires nothing has taken place to discredit that ability.

CNEA CHAIRMAN REITERATES NUCLEAR PROGRAM 'PEACEFUL'

PY111140 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Feb 82 p 35

["Text" of undated interview granted by Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) Chairman Vice Adm Carlos Castro Madero to O GLOBO correspondent Paulo Torres Buenos Aires]

[Text] O GLOBO: Would you draw a parallel between the nuclear programs of Brazil and Argentina?

Madero: Argentina trained personnel in advance in order to implement a large national program. In turn, Brazil was forced to take a shorter road in view of the pressing need for drastically reducing oil imports. So Brazil bought plants available in the market for almost immediate installation.

O GLOBO: Brazil chose the enriched uranium-light water system while Argentina preferred the natural uranium-heavy water system. Why?

Madero: There is a worldwide argument as to the most adequate type of reactor. Argentina arrived at the conclusion that with natural uranium it could master the fuel cycle much faster. We found that our chances of mastering the enrichment process, which is very expensive, were very remote. This is my personal opinion. For Brazilian scientists and technicians, however, the best option was enriched uranium. Brazil is also moving toward nuclear fuel self-sufficiency since it signed contracts for the installation of an enrichment as well as a reprocessing plant. I believe it worth noting that there is no rivalry between the two nuclear programs, because both of them are directed toward meeting national needs. I think the Brazilian program is very large.

O GLOBO: How are the cooperation agreements with Brazil going?

Madero: Bilateral commissions are working on the implementation of the agreements on personnel training and information exchange. In the industrial area we loaned Brazil 120 tons of uranium in 1981, and we will loan another 120 tons this year. Brazil will return these loans in 1983 and 1984.

O GLOBO: With interest, right?

Madero: Yes, 5 percent per year. But this is a good rate because it deals with practically constant-value currency. We loan uranium and will receive back uranium.

O GLOBO: And the agreement for the sale of zircalloy tubes?

Madero: We will deliver 40,000 meters of zircalloy [tubes] for use in the Brazilian plants. We have already shipped 4,000 meters for testing to see if they meet specifications of the Brazilian nuclear program. In exchange, Nuclebras subsidiary Nuclep [Nuclebras Heavy Equipment, Inc] will manufacture the bottom part of the pressure vessel to be used in Atucha.

O GLOBO: Are there possibilities for expanding cooperation between the two countries?

Madero: Aside from formal agreements, cooperation is developing. Cooperation in uranium ore processing is possible, as well as in developing a new fuel element which Brazil wants to manufacture.

O GLOBO: Is it true that Argentina is moving toward nuclear fuel self-sufficiency to be free from foreign dependency?

Madero: True, the Ezeiza plant will begin to manufacture fuel elements beginning in March. But we already have a pilot plant in operation which has already manufactured 240 fuel elements and which permitted us to pass up the option to buy them abroad. At the outset this will represent foreign exchange savings of $20 million.

O GLOBO: Has the Argentine Armed Forces ever discussed with the CNEA the possibility of using nuclear energy for military purposes?

Madero: I have already said many times that our nuclear program is for peaceful uses.

O GLOBO: But the nuclear program somehow has political significance, doesn't it?

Madero: In many aspects it does, but its fundamental objective is to generate energy.

O GLOBO: How do you explain the frequent publication of articles in the international press affirming that Argentina is already manufacturing the atomic bomb? Recently the magazine NEW SCIENTIST published such an article that raised many polemics.

Madero: The publication of such articles, which result from the imagination and fantasy of their authors, cannot be avoided. In turn, the magazines want to draw attention in order to sell. With total lack of knowledge, many people believe the Argentine and the Brazilian nuclear programs have military objectives. The writers present the question as though there is a great rivalry between the two countries, and both Argentina and Brazil are all set to produce the bomb. They forget about the benefits nuclear energy represents for a nation. Absurdities are published, such as the U.S. magazine SPOTLIGHT's article saying that Argentina is getting ready to test a thermonuclear bomb, a device much more sophisticated than the atomic bomb.

O GLOBO: But in reality, if Brazil and Argentina wanted to, are they in the position to manufacture an atomic bomb?

Madero: The two countries do have the technical capability to manufacture it, but they are just developing countries. Some people believe that Argentina and Brazil want to produce the bomb but they can't. This is nonsense. The two nations do not contemplate manufacturing the bomb because that would be a waste of investment and human resources. No Latin American country can believe that the best solution for political or border problems is the atomic bomb. The explosion of a bomb would hurt people so deeply that future generations would be doomed to live as enemies. It would be a total waste of efforts when the countries so much need nuclear energy for their development.

O GLOBO: Have you recently said that it was strange that such articles were published exactly at the time when Argentina is negotiating the purchase of technology abroad?

Madero: When we were negotiating contracts to build Atucha II articles appeared in the international press saying that we were going to build the atomic bomb. This kind of information affects public opinion in the countries that possess the technology. The people of these countries are sensitive to that and pressure the governments not to transfer technology. This kind of information is likely to come from governments interested in preventing countries like Argentina and Brazil from being able to master the full fuel cycle.

O GLOBO: Safety of nuclear plants is quite a controversial issue. There was once a problem with Atucha I when lightning hit a transformer and the plant shut down. What can you say about this?

Madero: I want to make it very clear that there was no nuclear accident in Atucha I. It was only a problem with an electrical transformer installed outside the plant. Nuclear plants have very secure safety systems which operate if something should go wrong. The question of safety in nuclear plants refers fundamentally to the refrigeration of the reactor core. All parts of the system related to the core are adequately protected and, even in case of an accident causing a general mishap, the reactor has a series of what is known as biological barriers to shield radiation from escaping.

Let's make some calculations. If at this time we add all the reactors that are functioning, we would have 2,000 reactor years or 200 years per 10 reactors, which is the same thing. During all that time there haven't been any fatal accidents nor has any person been affected by radiation. This record bests those of all industries which man has created for his development.

O GLOBO: What happened then at Three Mile Island?

Madero: There were flaws in material, in engineering and in operation simultaneously. But even so, the reactor's safety system proved perfect. Nobody was killed and the environment was not contaminated. In short, nuclear plants are equipped with systems for maximum safety.

O GLOBO: How is the Soviet Union's cooperation with Argentina in the nuclear field going?

Madero: We have commercial relations with the Soviet Union. We bought laminating machines for our zircalloy tube plant and also heavy water to replenish eventual losses. We also contracted for uranium enrichment services, and we are studying the possibility of signing a scientific-technological agreement, but there is nothing definite as yet.

O GLOBO: Does the United States continue to put pressure on Argentina to ratify the Tlatelolco treaty?

Madero: During the Carter administration there really were pressures to that effect, but they have diminished now. Nuclear cooperation with the United States is nonexistent, because a U.S. law forbids technology transfer to countries which did not ratify the [nonproliferation] treaty.

O GLOBO: Will the austerity program of Economy Minister Roberto Alemann affect the CNEA?

Madero: This year's budget has not yet been approved. So far nothing has been decided, but I am quite sure that there will be no substantial cuts. Perhaps some projects will be slowed down, and that will be all.

Nuclear Plan Explained

PY152243 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1521 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Mar (TELAM) -- National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) Chairman Vice Adm Carlos Castro Madero said that Argentina's nuclear development is behind that of the United States and of the Western European countries. He also said that Argentina is one of the first countries of those which will start or which have started a program of this kind.

He made this statement this morning at Ezeiza Airport upon his arrival from Japan, where he participated in the annual conference of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum [given in English]. Representatives of the United States, the USSR, Great Britain, France and Japan, together with Castro Madero, were the only speakers at the conference.

When he was told that some sectors of the international community seem not to forgive our country's stand for self-determination in nuclear energy development, Castro Madero answered that Argentina has clearly expressed its decision to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only, but that in no way does it want to tie itself to any commitments or treaties. He added: I think this is a discrimination. Argentina believes that it is necessary to have freedom of action in order to make use of nuclear energy, should it be feasible and economically advantageous and should it make a contribution to the country's development.

When asked whether cuts may have been made in the budget of Argentine nuclear projects, Castro Madero answered that no such measure has been taken yet and that the issue has not yet been considered at the highest level. The CNEA has submitted a minimum budget since we are aware that under the present circumstances reducing public expenditures is imperative, he said. This budget will enable the CNEA to continue with the projects which are underway, although some of them will be subject to delay. When asked whether the Yacyreta project may be postponed in order to ensure the continuation of Argentina's nuclear plan, as has been suggested by some sectors, he answered: I know absolutely nothing of those comparisons. Our nuclear program complements the national electric energy development and, therefore, it should not be regarded as a competitor of Yacyreta but, I think, efforts should be made to implement both in harmony.

He also said that the national nuclear plan awakened great interest [at the conference] and that copies of the report submitted by Argentina were requested. Finally, he reiterated the peaceful purposes of the Argentine project, explaining that all guarantees will naturally be given because otherwise it would be a secret development, which is what some believe or assume Argentina to be doing. Our policy has not changed and in this respect it has been very clear.

Seeks Mexican Contract

FY152052 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1802 GMT 4 Mar 82

[By Oscar Raul Cardoso]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 4 Mar (NA) -- National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA] Chairman Vice Adm Carlos Castro Madero has just begun an international undertaking which might influence Argentina's possibilities of participating in the Mexican nuclear program, which is one of the most ambitious in Latin America.

Because of the paradoxes involved in this type of negotiations, Castro Madero will seek that objective during a trip to Japan where he will attend the 15th annual conference of the Japanese Industrial Forum (JAIF) on invitation.

After the JAIF deliberations, Castro Madero will lecture on the Argentine experience in the construction and operation of natural uranium-heavy water nuclear plants to nuclear industry representatives of Canada, Japan, Great Britain and Italy. This lecture will also be attended by representatives of Mexico, a country which soon will have to choose between the enriched uranium-light water system employed by most developed countries and the natural uranium-heavy water system -- a decision identical to that which Argentina had to make in the early 1970's.

That decision will be made through international bidding for the construction of the first Mexican nuclear plant, to be awarded in the next 7 months.

The CNEA, in cooperation with the Krafwerk Union (KWU) of the FRG, has submitted an offer for the construction of a 900-mw pressure reactor for the Mexican program, but the offer was turned down because it did not meet some specifications.

Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd (a mixed enterprise) also prepared a proposal in association with private Argentine companies which have gained experience through their participation in the Argentine program. The Canadians are optimistic about their chances, so they had asked Castro Madero to attend the meeting with his assistants. They believe that a report on the achievements of the Argentine program can be decisive in the decision the Mexicans will have to make.

During his lecture, Castro Madero will talk about negotiations being held for uranium prospecting. The conditions [in Argentina] for the participation of foreign enterprises are clear and well-defined, according to Castro Madero. These contracts will contemplate the finding of new uranium deposits -- other than those which have been located or are being exploited by the CNEA -- with a limit of 25 percent to be exported. This limit is on condition that Argentine reserves will have to ensure for 30 years -- the calculated useful lifetime of an electricity-generating nuclear plant -- the needs of all installed or to-be-installed reactors in the country.

Finally, the companies interested in participation in this effort must guarantee the transfer of pertinent technology to the CNEA, according to Castro Madero.

ROC FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS, SIGNS COMMUNIQUE

Torrelio Decorated

PY110217 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] During a ceremony held this afternoon in the Mirror Hall of Government Palace, President Gen Celso Torrelio Villa was decorated, on behalf of the Taiwanese Government, with the Great Order of the Favorable Cloud in the Degree of Grand Special Braid.

[Begin Torrelio recording] It is an honor for the president of the Republic to receive this high decoration with which the republic of China has wished to honor the Bolivian people. There is nothing more pleasing for the chief of state who is delivering this message than to acknowledge the fraternal and deep ties of cooperation and friendship which unite our nations. Bolivia and the Republic of China, with their century-old peoples consisting of millennial races whose ancestral cultures contribute to the heritage of humanity, are an example to the world of what working and successful communities can achieve when they only seek the common well-being of their citizens. [end recording]

Agroindustrial Cooperation

PY121458 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Taiwanese Foreign Minister Chu Fu-sung said today that Taiwan will carry out a multimillion dollar agroindustrial program in Bolivia. In view of this, the Taiwanese Government will sign a letter of intention that will establish the amounts that will be invested in Bolivia. Chu Fu-sung discussed this investment program during a protocol meeting he held with Bolivian Planning Minister Adolfo Linares. The meeting, which was held at the Planning Ministry, took place in a cordial and frank atmosphere. Speaking in English, both government officials noted that Taiwan and Bolivia share astonishing similarities and that this factor will help in carrying out exchange programs, particularly those in the economic field.

Adolfo Linares noted that the government has put in force a 3-year socioeconomic plan to promote production in the mining, agricultural and agroindustrial sectors. Nevertheless, he said that Bolivia is an essentially agricultural country and that this sector needs investment to promote its development. He added that Bolivia and China could also undertake joint mining programs, noting that the exploitation of gold is a line of international interest. He said that both of these sectors are supported by the so-called export development law and the investment law, noting that both laws support investments.

Furthermore, the Taiwanese foreign minister offered technical assistance and other means to [words indistinct]. He said that a letter of intention will be signed at the Foreign Ministry level in this regard.

Communique Signed

PY131629 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] The Bolivian and Taiwanese foreign ministers agreed on the need to further strengthen the close bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two nations and exchanged viewpoints on the international situation and on matters of interest to the two nations. These are the most salient points of the Taiwanese-Bolivian joint communique signed this afternoon in the office of the Bolivian foreign minister. The communique was signed by Taiwanese Foreign Minister Chu Fu-sung and Bolivian Foreign Minister Gonzalo Romero Alvarez Garcia.

In the communique the Taiwanese foreign minister expressed special gratitude to the Bolivian Government for the staunch international support it has been giving the Republic of China [ROC]. In turn, the Bolivian foreign minister thanked his Taiwanese counterpart for the positive cooperation received from the ROC technical agricultural mission.

[Begin Alvarez Garcia recording] It is a great honor for me to sign this joint communique which depicts the progress of the constantly strengthening relationship between our two nations. It also allows us to establish -- on the basis of our contacts this morning -- certain specific goals for the future and to reaffirm those goals which we have been fulfilling, thanks to the cooperation you give to our country. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Alvarez Garcia concluded by expressing gratitude on behalf of the Bolivian Government, for the $10,000 donation granted by the ROC Government to help out the flood victims in eastern Bolivia.

[Begin Alvarez Garcia recording] At the same time, Mr Foreign Minister, I would like to thank you for your very kind gesture of granting $10,000 through a check issued to the Bolivian Foreign Ministry, in order to bring some relief to our brothers in Beni Department who are at this point enduring floods and (?other) acts of God. Thank you very much, Mr Foreign Minister and may your ruler, his excellency the president of the republic of China receive General Torrelio's gratitude for all these gestures of affection and solidarity toward the Bolivian people. [end recording]

CREATION OF GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED UNION REPORTED

PY160219 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Labor leaders today reported that former coordinators may be organizing a national workers union. These former coordinators have reportedly submitted a government-sponsored plan for the (?cleaning up of) the national working class, suggesting the creation of a new nationalistic labor organization to take the place of the Bolivian Labor Federation, COB.

The evidence of the existence of the above plan, which is to be implemented by the Interior and Labor Ministries, is a photocopy of a document. The document is signed by (Ramon Morales Fernandez), (Hugo Paz Torres), (Pedro Ordonez Toranzos) and (Abrahan Monastery).

The text of the second article of the organization chapter of the plan states that the Interior and Labor Ministers should be aware of all types of assistance that may be required in order to grant support and media coverage so that the creation of the national organization may count on the necessary financial, political and labor union resources.

The third article states that television and other news media sponsored by Government House and the Information Ministry should provide all the necessary media coverage and propaganda so that the new organization may reach the public right from the very beginning through its labor broadcasts and through pertinent educational programs for workers throughout the country. The document is accompanied by a letter which states that the COB fulfills the duty of unmasking for the public the ever-present [word indistinct] of the working class, who were previously expelled from the union because of their fomenting disunity. The letter is signed by the COB's National Executive Committee.

BRIEFS

NEW OIL WELL -- YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits] official has reported that one of the largest oil wells in the country has been discovered 45 km from Santa Cruz. The well called Santa Rosa, since it is located near Santa Rosa, is producing at present 650 barrels of oil per day. A total of 15 wells will be drilled in the Santa Rosa field within the next few months. According to YPFB General Manager (Otto Lopez Murillo) reserves in the oil field total an average of 30 million barrels. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Mar 82 PY]

PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S ANNUAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

PY061456 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Mar 82 p 4

[Annual message sent to Congress in Brasilia by President Joao Figueiredo on 1 March]

[Text] Your excellencies, members of Congress:

In 1981 the economic policy was aimed at consolidating the process of adjustment of the Brazilian economy to new conditions created by the second oil crisis and its consequences. In accordance with the Third National Development Plan [III PDE], the government continued to stimulate, on a priority basis, the agricultural, energy and export sectors, as well as to ensure the continuity of social programs.

The main obstacle to maintaining a high Gross Domestic Product [GDP] growth rate lies in the area of the balance of payments, which is tilted against us. The first effect of the shock wave set off by our oil needs was felt in the area of imports in 1981 and subsequent effects were felt in the area of foreign debt servicing in 1981. Trying to hedge themselves against the consequences of the crisis, the developed countries adopted fiscal and monetary policies which substantially increased interest rates in the international market, and thus the cost of our foreign debt.

A set of measures was adopted to straighten out the external accounts and, as a result we have an exceptional foreign trade performance in 1981, with a $1.2 billion surplus in the balance of trade -- the highest ever. In contrast, we had a $2.8 billion trade balance deficit in 1980. This performance is all the more impressive against the backdrop of the troublesome world economic situation in 1981, when recession hit our commercial partners, protectionist barriers were raised, the value of the dollar was hiked, interest rates climbed, and agricultural product and raw material prices were depressed. Equivalent export prices fell 7.4 percent in 1981. To obtain a $1.2-billion surplus, exports had to increase 25.3 percent and imports had to be reduced 15.7 percent. It was thus possible to offset the increased cost of the foreign debt, and to reduce the deficit in the balance of current accounts from $12.9 billion in 1980 to $10.6 billion in 1981; and also to increase foreign reserves by $600 million.

The economic policy also was instrumental in bringing down the annual inflation rate from 110.2 percent in 1980 to 95.2 percent in December 1981.

The success in bringing down inflation was achieved despite the persistence last year of the strong inflationary feedback resulting from the readjustments of the exchange rate to compete with an overvalued dollar, the readjustment of public utility fees to plug the drain in the treasury which subsidies represent, the reduction in wheat subsidies, price deregulation, automatic salary readjustments and the readjustment of oil byproduct prices which became necessary to make oil-byproduct substitutes more competitive and thus to stimulate fuel substitution programs.

Although the level of inflation is still high, its declining trend resulted, through the salary readjustment policy, in a substantial real-income gain for workers earning as much as 10 times the minimum monthly salary.

Despite the difficult economic and financial situation, the government paid attention to all the other problems afflicting Brazilian society.

Because of its vital importance, conservation of the environment had to be one of those other problems. Conscious of its duty to protect the environment, the federal government in 1981 enacted two laws proposed by the executive branch. The first one provides for the creation of ecological stations and environmental protection areas. The second establishes the national environment policy. The number of national parks and biological preserves was increased and so their total area now covers more than 9.5 million hectares. Ecological stations -- some already installed and some being installed -- will greatly contribute to an effective policy of environmental protection as demanded by the public interest.

The conservation policy will be given more breadth and depth this year. Special attention will be given to the economic-ecological zoning of the Amazon region and the plan to regulate the zoning already being studied. In 1982 the government will firmly support a campaign against technologies which pollute water and air, and against forest clearing practices which affect the fertility of the soil. The critical areas of air pollution will receive priority treatment to free the population from harmful effects. Preventing the destruction of the environment does not imply blocking productive activities or hindering economic growth. It does call for reconciling the interests of production with the general interest, as well as for preventing economic growth over the short or long term from running into insuperable difficulties, so that coming generations can be guaranteed the elements indispensable for their well-being.

The energy crisis, which exploded in 1973 in what became known as the oil shock because of the abrupt oil price increase, worsened dangerously in 1979 due to a drastic decrease in supply combined with new, steep price increases. This was a worldwide crisis.

To face up to the great difficulties the fuel crisis visited upon the country, I instituted the National Energy Commission in 1979 for the purpose of "establishing guidelines and directives, not only to increase domestic oil production, but also to make oil consumption more rational as well as to promote substitution of alternate sources for oil in producing energy."

That program is being carried out with technical ability and unflagging firmness. Under the policy that was laid down, the consumption of petroleum and its byproducts is steadily being decreased. The process of substituting energy from alternate sources is proceeding at an encouraging pace. On the other hand, the production of oil has increased to the point that it can be expected that over the next 3 years production will reach the equivalent of 0.5 million barrels per day. This figure includes natural gas production expressed in equivalent barrels. Among other alternate energy sources I can mention alcohol and coal. The program for the production of alcohol for automobile fuel is in fact the largest program of its kind in the world. The success of this program reveals the pioneering spirit of Brazilians as well as their capacity for accommodating themselves to new circumstances created by economic, technological and social changes. The production and utilization of coal as an alternate source of energy is also expanding rapidly. The 5.5 million tons of coal currently being produced per year will be surpassed by far in the next 3-year period. Calculations put the amount of coal to be produced by the end of that period at 13 million tons per year. Other alternate sources on energy are also being exploited, such as wood and charcoal. The programs for the development of hydroelectric and nuclear energy are moving ahead at a steady pace. Investments in the production of electricity, through the construction of Itaipu and Itacurui in 1981, grew more than 40 percent in real terms, going from 72,001,000,000 cruzeiros in 1980 to 214,009,000,000 cruzeiros in 1981.

Leste R. Brown's book "Building a Sustainable Country" refers to the government's handling of the energy policy in this way: "Among countries that are rapidly heading toward an economy based on a self-sustainable energy source, Brazil is leading the pack. Its programs to reduce most of its oil imports by 1990 hinge on the utilization of the hydroelectric potential, the use of wood as fuel and an advanced agricultural program for the production of alcohol...Brazil is building an industrial economy based almost entirely on a renewable energy supply."

The agrarian reform program is being expedited. Since I assumed the presidency there have been more rural property titles distributed than since this reform process was established. Nevertheless, measures have been put in force to expedite even more the distribution of land among those farmers who lack resources to acquire it. During this year alone a plan has been put in force to distribute 300,000 property titles. Therefore, it is our goal to issue in 1 year more property titles than have been granted since the beginning of my administration.

Since each of the families who received these land property titles are made up on the average of four people, more than 1 million people will benefit from this program this year alone. But the government is also aware that the distribution of land demands the granting of loans to enable those farmers who have acquired this land to make it more productive and, moreover, the farmers and their families have to be provided with basic social services.

An implementing legislation was enacted for the rural Usucapion Institute to diminish the time period legally necessary for acquiring ownership titles and to make the law more effective since means to implement the distribution of land in compliance with the Usucapion law were lacking.

The agrarian reform program and the Usucapion law will contribute to improving the living condition of farmers. Moreover, since farmers will benefit from a better income by working their own land, they will stay there and by doing so there will be an increase in agricultural production. Therefore, both farmers and society in general benefit from this agrarian reform program since an increase in agricultural production -- mainly food products -- is essential for our economy.

Furthermore, because the government believes that an increase in agricultural production is essential for improving the living conditions of the people and strengthening our economy, it is investing heavily to expand cultivated land by financing agricultural activities in general. More than 95 billion cruzeiros have been invested on the northeast development project program alone.

In addition to promoting the production of food, the government is helping to feed millions of Brazilians through its numerous programs. One of them, the national school nutrition program, will help more than 15 million children this year. Moreover, the workers' nutrition program, which is promoted by granting tax exemptions to enterprises, is today supplying food to about 2 million employees. However, since this program is being constantly expanded, there will be an even larger number of workers benefiting from this program during my administration. But other special programs have also been expanded. For example the basic nutrition program which is offered in poverty areas helped 460,000 people last year while by 1985 it will help 5 million people. Moreover, the nutrition assistance program which in 1981 helped 2.5 million expectant mothers and children ranging from 6-month-old babies to 6-year-olds, will help about 6 million of them within the next few years. A total of about 35 million Brazilians will benefit from these and other nutrition assistance programs that will be implemented during my administration.

The inauguration of housing developments has become a frequent event, thus offering millions of people the opportunity to have their own house. Having one's own house is an essential factor for a family's comfort and security. This is now being put within the reach of all social sectors granting priority to those from lower income sectors. By the end of my administration there will be about 25 million Brazilians living in houses that have been obtained through government aid programs. Large sums have been invested to achieve this ambitious undertaking. Certainly no fewer resources will be used to carry on the housing program that I established. In 1982 the federal government, through its financial agencies, will invest 1.2 trillion cruzeiros to build 700,000 houses that will shelter 3.5 million people. This is equal to constructing in 12 months enough houses for 10 cities of 150,000 people each.

The plan for eradicating urban slums is also under way -- the slums dotting the outskirts of our cities. City and rural slums will be submitted to a plan of urbanization to provide them with all basic services so as to improve living conditions for the dwellers.

The housing program goes hand in hand with the sanitation program, with the main objective of providing drinking water and sewage services to cities and towns which do not yet have them. The drinking water problem has either been solved or is in the blueprint stage in 2,500 municipalities. According to estimates, all municipalities and towns with more than 5,000 inhabitants will have a water supply in the next 3-year period. It is also expected that in the next 3 years sewage services will be installed in all cities with more than 100,000 people.

Transportation is one of the worst problems affecting large cities. To complement the efforts being made by local governments to alleviate the transportation needs of urban populations, the federal government will proceed with the work of paving all roads around state capitals and medium-size cities and serviced by regular buslines. Thousands of kilometers of buses-only road strips will be paved. An important program of mass transportation in electric commuter trains is also being developed.

In Rio de Janeiro the subway segments which are already in operation can transport 300,000 passengers per day; and with the new segments that will be ready by year's end, 700,000 passengers per day will have this kind of transportation. Subway services will be coordinated with Baixada Fluminense commuter trains which are being remodeled to increase their capacity from the current 650,000 passengers per day to 1.3 million in the very near future.

The construction of the Sao Paulo subway is moving ahead, and its capacity, with the inauguration of new segments in 1982, will be expanded to 1.1 million passengers per day.

Train transportation will also benefit other cities. In Porto Alegre a modern commuter train system is under construction to link it with the cities of Canoas, Esteio, Sapucai, Sao Leopoldo and Novo Hamburgo. An identical project is being implemented in Belo Horizonte to serve the more densely populated neighborhoods. A commuter train line will begin operation in Salvador by mid-year, going from the Central Station Calcada to the Station Paripe to serve the low-income population in nearby areas. This line will eventually be extended to the industrial complex in Aratu. In Fortaleza comfortable commuter trains will run from downtown to Macanau e Caucais. A beautifully planned commuter train project is beginning to be implemented in Recife while a railroad line circling the metropolitan region is being completed.

Still under my administration and as the result of these measures, 9 million Brazilians will be conveniently served with fast-running, smooth-riding, comfortable and low-fare subways or commuter trains.

In addition to helping in solving traffic problems in the large cities, the federal government helped small cities through the municipality assistance program. As of now 800 municipalities are receiving that help for implementing important community projects. By the end of this year that assistance will be expanded to 2,300 municipalities throughout all regions of the country. The same kind of assistance is offered to medium-sized cities and state capitals. This federal initiative, which indirectly benefits more than 18 million people, is directly assisting 13.5 million persons living in 112 cities.

This policy of aid to the municipalities also embraces the recently instituted program of building county roads in an orderly manner. This project, which will cover all regions of the country, will facilitate the circulation of goods and people through zones where traffic is still difficult due to the poor quality or nonexistence of roads. This road interconnection will strengthen the rural economy and will intensify economic activity at many points of our territory.

Regarding social welfare, we can say that today almost all Brazilians are under the protection of the social welfare system. Not long ago, the rural worker was left out of state protection in this regard. The extension of the system to the rural worker has bridged one of the greatest gaps in the system. The burden resulting from the inclusion of the rural man in the system of retirement by the state was bound to be heavy. It was, however, an elemental task of social justice that ought to be fulfilled at any cost. There was an obligation to provide deserved assistance to those who have come to join the number enrolled in that welfare system. It must be pointed out in this regard that the benefits in the urban area doubled during 1973 to 1980, and practically tripled in the same period in the rural area.

In the area of medical assistance, the number of treatments is impressive: 198 million medical consultations and 38 million dental consultations. It must be noted also that, in addition to a constant increase in the kinds of services in the health area, the progress of medical science demands the use of increasingly more sophisticated -- and therefore more expensive -- means and processes.

The financial requirements for social welfare and medical assistance are reaching extremely high levels due to the increase in the number of beneficiaries or due to the constant increase in the cost of benefits.

This fact, which is responsible for the so-called social welfare crisis, is not peculiar to Brazil alone. It is a common fact among many countries -- many of them tremendously developed -- which are facing the same problem. Profound measures are being adopted, in addition to the action already taken in this regard, seeking to contain the expenditures in the areas of welfare and medical assistance within the limits of our economic and financial potentials.

A similar problem is found in the field of medical assistance resulting from the alarming spiral of medicine prices. The federal government is trying, therefore, to come to the aid of those who are not in a position to purchase them through the system of offering free medicine. A specialized organization has been charged with the control of that service, which will be encouraged to expand its field of action.

Education is more than ever a decisive factor to solve the problems which are adversely affecting our society. In a country like Brazil whose population is made up mainly of youngsters, the educational factor has even greater importance. It is not enough to eradicate or to drastically reduce the number of illiterates. It is our duty to provide effective primary education to all students and prepare our youth to meet, with confidence, all bewilderments caused by the constant changes which are shaking the world. Our youth must become aware of the values which make up the structure of our society and we must not allow them to be misled by the illusion of obsolete cultural models which break up before our eyes due to their internal contradictions. The youth must be able to find solutions which may correspond to our reality, to our characteristics. They must seek the real national identity, the true Brazilian values, in their capacity as elements which must guarantee the destiny reserved for our country.

Forced to constantly evaluate its objectives and to identify and promote the ethical, social and political values which are properties of a unique culture, the nation demands, therefore, the cooperation of the youth. Fostering education is therefore, among the unpostponable plans of the government, which will not stop investing in what is said to be our most precious product: the human being.

The right to live in a healthy atmosphere; the right to ownership and acquisition of rutal property; the right to health care; the right to have food; the right to have a house, the right to social welfare; and the right to medical assistance are not faced by the government only as programmatic rules, waiting for an occasional and uncertain accomplishment.

These measures and objectives, as an example, show through the eloquence of facts that these rights are understood by the administration as compulsory norms, as morally-binding norms which are imposed in an unavoidable manner on the government. I admit that not all that could be done has been done to fulfill them. I am proud to say, however, that everything possible was done under the circumstances, and everything which the collective interest demands and allows will be done during the course of my term in office, to fulfill that task.

Were it not for the fact that the present international situation exerts irresistible pressure on our economic and financial structure, the humanistic work which the government carries on with determination and energy could have been expanded even more.

Pointing to the international crisis as a factor which slows down the nation's development does not mean that we are resorting to a pretext to avoid explaining our difficulties. To attribute such an intention to the government is to refuse to accept the obvious. In the early 1980's we are living through one of the most dnagerous and difficult times in human history. Looking at it one way, from a world without frontiers, open to migrations, rather carefree about its natural resources, we have come to be a limited world, a restricted world, an isolated world. Looking at it in another way, the earth seems to be shrinking and unifying, so that essential problems become world problems. The situation that is looming on the horizon does not look like one that can be identified with any nation in particular, but with the situation of mankind as a whole.

It would be strange if, in the middle of such a situation, Brazil could remain impervious to the difficulties and hardships afflicting the world economy. Contagious as the disease of inflation is, not even sparing highly-developed countries, Brazil was bound to catch it. It does not matter whether inflation is the effect or the cause of the current crisis. What matters is to keep in mind that inflation is an international phenomenon which, through a complicated transfer process, affects Brazil and exacerbates the domestic inflation. In addition, our economy is subject to the cruel action of the same factors or elements causing the international inflationary outbreak. On another front, natural disasters and catastrophes -- floods, drought, coldwaves -- which have mercilessly ruined part of our promising agricultural harvests, aggravate inflation.

Perhaps inflation is the government's worst political burden because the natural tendency of those who have little understanding or of those who are interested in discrediting the institutions is to blame the government for the inflationary nightmare. But could the government be interested in its own bankruptcy? The political burden of inflation will certainly be almost unbearable in those countries which live unprotected against the effects of the shrinking value of the currency.

In Brazil that protection was instituted in the form of a broad, although not complete, indexation of the economy. Under this protection system, if the price level rises by given percentage over a given period, the remuneration of labor is in principle raised by the same percentage. This system -- which is known as monetary correction -- permits wage earners to be spared from the effects of the rising cost of living.

It would, perhaps, be ideal if indexation could encompass all sectors of the economy. However, no nation has yet been able to do so. Brazil pioneered the use of monetary correction as an instrument to correct distortions caused by inflation. Brazil, I repeat, is proud of having broadened the spectrum of sectors subject to indexation. It is also proud of having assisted -- as it did in 1981 -- through the readjustment of salaries pegged to monetary correction, not only workers in general but the most needy workers in particular. Thanks to this policy, wage earners, retired people and pensioners can neutralize the effects of inflation or at least cope with the rising cost of living. As for the workers earning as much as 10 times the minimum monthly salary, the salary readjustment was higher than the increase in the cost of living. Since the workers in this salary bracket constitute 90 percent of the labor force, the salary increase extended to them constitutes a broad and salutary income redistribution measure.

It would be tiresome to list the groups, the professional categories and the classes which were protected against the upsetting effects of inflation on the cost of living. Large numbers of people, therefore, have been sheltered by the monetary correction against the shrinking value of money. As far as all these people are concerned, the rising cost of living is matched by a correspondingly increasing buying power. It is not fair that one should look at one side of the coin -- inflation -- without looking at the other side of the coin -- the strengthened buying power. The fact that a formula was devised to prevent inflation from completely destabilizing the economy does not mean that the government will relent in fighting that abominable economic and financial specter. I demand that I be treated fairly: The criticism for the rising cost of living should be tempered by the recognition that income has been increased through monetary correction. I also have the right to expect that my government not be charged with the responsibility for difficulties stemming from the international crisis which is worsening continuously.

On the strictly political front, as soon as I took power I promoted amnesty for those who had been tried or sentenced for political or electoral crimes. I did not link that measure to any political demand. For the sake of social harmony and political peace, I wanted to bury forever conflicts, hostilities and defiances that belong to the past.

In line with that conciliatory attitude of let bygones be bygones, I sent to the honorable Congress a bill, which was enacted into law, eliminating the penalty of ineligibility that had been preventing some citizens from running, for elective office thus restoring their right to run for positions at all levels in November 1982. There should be no doubt that elections will be held in November when the beneficiaries of amnesty will fully exercise the right to run for office in accordance with the law -- the right the government gave back to them. I also acted to safeguard the constitutional privileges and the human rights of all our citizens.

The democratic commitment I assume before the nation is irrevocably in force. I pledged to put in force a liberal democracy when I swore to defend and uphold the constitution. A liberal democracy because it repel rigid and belligerent ideologies that have a monopoly on all truths. A liberal democracy because it does not accept tenets which are supposed to be recognized as a bible; tenets which citizens must obey unquestionably. A liberal democracy because it upholds economic, social and political freedom. This is also an essentially pluralistic democracy. Pluralist because it trusts the inherent faculty of reason's ability to choose freely a way of life, either at the individual or social level, that is in keeping with he interests and ideals of men; pluralist because it presupposes that free enterprise, which is the essence of economic freedom, the basis for resources; plurist because on these bases democracy reconciles the past with the present, and stability with change.

The democracy I envision is, therefore, dynamic and creative. In keeping with this, basic principles such as private property and free enterprise -- which are the bases of freedom itself -- will serve the individual, society, and the ideal of distributive justice. These principles that are the source of resources, factors that contribute to our economic growth and which promote development, are the bastion of national prosperity and an economic democracy of a distributive nature that characterizes our social policy. I am, therefore, seriously concerned over the decrease in our growth rate. The influence of the international crisis, and notably the policy of restricting imports, that is in force in practically all countries is obvious.

In addition to that, the cost of money has a negative impact on our economic system, with a consequent disheartening of the productive sectors and the progressive and at times critical decapitalization of the enterprises. Certainly a number of measures have been adopted within our frontiers to halt and reduce the tremendous financial burden which, due to the fact of increasingly going into debt, directly falls on the businessmen, and indirectly on the consumers. New imaginative and effective strategies will have to be used, however, to protect, through the reduction of the cost of money, not only the great enterprises, but especially the medium-sized and small enterprises, even the tiny enterprises.

Quick and radical changes which shake the world, changes which are unprecedented due to their level and depth, require the blazing of new paths toward the future. As I already indicated, this does not mean that the basis of Brazilian society must be given up. On the contrary, it is necessary that, with a creative spirit and free thinking, the features of our civilization be well-defined so that, faithful to our way of being, or of being in the world, we may keep our cultural identity.

One must not pretend, as is said at times, to civilize a civilization, or to totally create the future. The paths of the future have been mostly outlined. Individual rights and guarantees, the social and human rights pertain to man himself, and are inseparable, in principle or ideally, from his history. It is also appropriate not to forget the importance which modern constitutions attribute to the duties and obligations of the citizen -- duties and obligations which are inseparable from his irremediable imperfection.

Regarding the limitations of free will, I must also remind you, rigorously and because it cannot be postponed, that any attempt to subvert order, or the abuse of individual or political rights with the purpose of subverting the democratic regime, or for corruption, will not be tolerated.

In addition to the paths that have been established to mold our cultural identity, other paths must be outlined to build a united open, friendly and responsible society that is morally healthy; a society that will keep the happiness, kindness and tenderness that still characterize the Brazilian people. However this will be a joint undertaking that will demand the unselfish participation of all citizens. It will have to be a society that has no place for pessimists; a society in which everyone to the best of his capacity offers specific solutions to eradicate social problems. It will have to be a society that is aware that, while destroying is easy, building is a difficult task. It will have to be a society in which each person will have to pay attention to the path to follow instead of criticizing. It will have to be a society that is able to overcome antagonisms and inspire the unity of the people. It will have to be a society characterized by political intelligence instead of immaturity. It will have to be a society in which political relations must not assume the character of friends and foes.

Among those who can build this society which in turn will promote social progress -- and in a particularly important position -- are all political leaders. To all of them without exception I have already extended my hands so that all together, regardless of our respective commitment, we may pursue that great national objective. Although I have not received the response I was entitled to expect from my adversaries, I am not hesitating to renew now that gesture to have calm prevail at least in the political sector. I believe in dialogue, not in quarrels. While dialogues can serve national interests, quarrels will lead only to radicalization, which will only serve the interests of those who seek to divide the nation. The message, then, that I am conveying through you, members of Congress, to all Brazilians is a message of faith in the political sincerity of our people, in their civic spirit, in their loftiness, in their ability to help me and the Brazilian nation overcome the major difficulties stemming from this serious historical period which has shaken the socioeconomic structure of the international community and has disrupted our normal development.

MINISTER COMMENTS ON EFFECT OF U.S. SUGAR PRICES

PY110249 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 10 Mar 82 p 7

[Text] Brazil will keep close political ties with the U.S. and with European Common Market representatives in order to minimize the tarriffs on sugar exports said Minister Camilo Pena. According to him, the U.S. decision to hike up the minimum stabilizing domestic price for sugar to 19.08 cents per pound will have an impact on the average price and on long term Brazilian sales. The main concern for the Brazilian exporters now is the sugar export subsidized by EEC.

NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION PLAN CAUSES FRG NO SURPRISE

PY092028 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1145 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text] Brasilia, 6 Mar (TELAM) -- FRG Embassy spokesman Gerhard Kutzner stated in this capital that the establishment of the Brazilian plan 2000 is no surprise to the FRG. This plan provides for the construction of four nuclear plants during the government of General Figueiredo and four more during the next government. Kutzner stated that his country's government has confidence in the repeated remarks by the Brazilian Government that the nuclear plan will be fulfilled according to the established program.

RESULTS OF LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS REPORTED

Liberal Party Winning

PA151528 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- So far, the Liberal Party has clearly won elections in 20 of the 23 Colombian departments, according to partial results from the regional registries.

The official liberalism won in 20 departments, and the new liberalism, led by Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento, won in Bucaramanga [sentence as heard]. The Conservative Party has a wide majority of votes in Antioquia, Huila, and Narino Departments.

Official Senate Vote

PA160102 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Official civil registry communique No 9 on 14 March election results -- all figures as heard]

[Excerpt] The following are the total votes for the Senate of the republic:

Liberal Party	1,708,649 votes
Conservative Party	1,303,657
Democratic Front	51,300
Democratic Unity Movement	6,495
Liberal-Democratic Front Movement	4,663
People's Unity Front Movement	10,991
Other groups:	15,044
Grand total of valid votes in the country	3,010,799
Blank votes	3,445
Voided votes	4,025
Grand general total	3,108,789

Politicians' Comments

PA160300 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1920 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota, 15 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Conservative Party candidate Belisario Betancur said today that he is satisfied with the results of the congressional election in Colombia. He was confident that his party will win the 30 May presidential election.

After one-fifth of the votes had been counted, Betancur's party had won 44 percent of the ballots compared to 54 percent won by the ruling Liberal Party. Betancur said in a news conference that if he wins the presidency, he will rescue the country from its "moral crisis." Betancur was confident of his victory. He promised to lift the state of siege that has prevailed in Colombia for the last 34 years.

President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala's government said that yesterday's election, which took place without major incident, was a victory over the leftist guerrillas' sabotage campaign, which included a bomb attack last week on the presidential palace.

Luis Carlos Galan, the dissident candidate from the government party, said that the election proved that "the Colombian democratic system is undergoing a true revitalization." Galan heads the "New Liberalism" group whose candidates seem to have been very successful in Bogota while they were easily defeated by the candidates of the ruling party in the other 22 provinces. The ruling party's candidate in the May election is Alfonso Lopez Michelsen.

Lopez Michelsen met early today with his aides to evaluate the situation but he made no comment on the election results.

Gerardo Molina, the presidential candidate supported by various leftist groups, cast doubt on the honesty of yesterday's election. He told journalists that the strict security imposed by the military interfered with the people's right to vote. Party sources said that the sabotage threats from the 19 April Movement, the country's main guerrilla group, seemed to effect the number of voters during the first hours of the balloting. The sources added, however, that the massive security operation had a claiming effect and that the number of voters going to the polls increased considerably shortly before the balloting ended.

TURBAY BIDS FAREWELL TO SINAI PEACE FORCE

PA141844 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala reiterated today his confidence in the Colombians' democratic spirit upon bidding farewell to Colombia's battalion No 3, which will join the multinational peace force in the Sinai. He said that the Colombian people will reply to the barbarous force of bombs with the creative power of votes. The president's statement was the first official reply to the subversives who set off a car bomb on the night of 10 March in front of Narino Palace.

The 500 officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers of the military unit that will travel to the Middle East on 15 March were bade farewell by President Turbay Ayala, who said that the Colombian flag will return covered with the glory achieved by the peacemakers.

COMMUNIST LEADER FAVORS DIALOGUE WITH GUERRILLAS

PA140329 Paris AFP in Spanish 1925 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota, 10 Mar (AFP) -- Gerardo Molina, the Colombian Communist Party presidential candidate, said here today that the only way to halt subversion in Colombia is direct dialogue between the government and the guerrillas.

Molina added that it is very difficult to establish peace without talking with the opposition or with the enemy in this case. He admitted that the amnesty recently decreed by the government to benefit those up in arms, might fail.

Molina said that the guerrillas had expected to receive a more radical, general and complete amnesty. "Since this did not happen, the decree was rejected," the presidential candidate said.

He also admitted that the government's new amnesty decree for those up in arms followed the basic principles suggested by the peace committee. Molina is a member of the committee which is chaired by former President Carlos Lleras (1966-1970).

Molina pointed out that he had hoped the guerrillas would have considered the decree a bit longer before making a decision. He said that the radicalism of the subversive organizations has perplexed him.

In a statement made to the evening newspaper EL ESPACIO, Molina said that the government's ideas have positive points and it would be worthwhile for the guerrillas to study them. However, he said that the part dealing with the political prisoners was the weakest in the government's decree.

Molina reiterated that direct dialogue is the correct path. He explained that if the government were to call on the subversives to talk and to suggest a plan, surely this would allow a valuable opening. He concluded by saying that "while the guerrillas are not heard, it will be very difficult."

U.S. MILITARY AID RESUMPTION APPLAUDED

PY111808 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 28 Feb 82 p 2

[Excerpt] In its weekly bulletin, the Liberal Party emphasizes that "The American military aid to Paraguay which has just been restored by President Reagan is important because there is no foreign policy without the backing of proportionate force. We prefer a strong army that is professionally prepared." It also says that "The Argentine military budget for 1981 is $4 billion, a sum which would have been enough to conclude building the Yacyreta Dam."

POLICE SMASH PRO-CHINESE PCP CELL, 30 ARRESTED

PY150156 Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] It was reported at a press conference held this afternoon at the police investigations department in Asuncion that some 30 members of the Paraguayan Communist Party [PCP] who carried out underground activities have been arrested. When police investigations Chief Pastor M. Coronel addressed the attending journalists:

[Begin Coronel recording] We wish to report on the total disruption of a communist organization of the Creydt Faction of the pro-Chinese fronts which was formed some years ago jointly with another front. These two fronts have a parallel system of operation although they do so separately. The Moscow line is led by Duarte Soler and this other line is led by Oscar Creydt and was led by the late Arturo Lopez. The Creydt Faction, which was totally disrupted in the seventies or thereabouts, is one of the most bellicose groups in our country. It is a group which tried to stage several attacks and has participated in guerrilla attacks.

We have discovered a wrongly-termed "people's jail" where the organization runs a printing press. You will be able to see this jail and the strategic place in which it is located. We have found very important documents. We have discovered the party's headquarters here in our country, which made it possible for us to find a complete list of documents of the whole organization. Thanks to this large number of documents we have been able to trade and identify all the members of this organization within our country, such as in the Caaguazu, Caazapa and Tebicuarymi areas. These groups are already guerrilla formations, so to speak. Nine of the members are currently in hiding, probably in the Caaguazu forest. [end Coronel recording]

BRIEFS

CURRENCY CIRCULATING, TRADE DEFICIT -- According to a report by the Paraguayan Central Bank, the monetary issuance, which at the end of December 1980 amounted to 90,336,000,000 guaranies, dropped to 90,224,000,000 guaranies at the end of December 1981. The report says that money in circulation amounted to 71,871,000,000 guaranies at the end of 1981. The report also states that the trade balance showed a deficit of $303.8 million for 1981. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Feb 82 p 10 PY]

IDB LOAN FOR AGRICULTURE -- Yesterday the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry disclosed that the IDB has approved the granting of a $14.2 million loan to finance a program for settlements in the departments of Alto Parana and Canendiyu. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 16 Feb 82 p 10 PY]

ITAIPU GENERATOR ROTOR ARRIVES -- The rotor for the first generator at the Itaipu hydroelectric dam has arrived at the site where the dam is being built. Transporting the rotor, which weighs 392 tons, from Sao Paulo, Brazil, took over 3 months. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Mar 82 p 13 PY]

OAS SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES, MEETS ALVAREZ

PY130048 Montevideo El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Excerpt] OAS Secretary General Alejandro Orfila, who is at present visiting Uruguay, made a statement on several Latin American issues, especially regarding the situation in El Salvador. He said the OAS believes the redemocratization process conducted by some Latin American countries is positive. Orfila also underscored the Uruguayan participation within the OAS.

Orfila is at present attending a luncheon given in his honor by Foreign Minister Valdes Otero. Earlier he was received by the president, Lt Gen (Ret) Gregorio Alvarez, at government house.

COMMUNIST PARTY CELL BREAKUP RECOUNTED

PY121914 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] It has been reported that a Communist Party cell has been broken up and that 11 persons have been arrested. An official communique issued a few minutes ago notes that on 27 January the public was informed about the disruption of the labor union apparatus of the outlawed Communist Party. This cell was carrying out clandestine operations to infiltrate those Uruguayan professional associations permitted under the law presently in force.

The communique notes that the objective of these operations was to regain key posts in unions to dominate the labor sector as it had done before over an extensive period. However, this initial stage would be low-keyed with some occasional confrontations since there would be time in the future to promote unrest, carry out a collection for a certain labor sector, or solicit donations of the wages of one or more days for a specific group.

The communique adds that this was the situation when on 27 January 1982, after a careful investigation, police discovered the clandestine activity of the members of the outlawed Communist Party. Among others, officials ordered immediate proceedings against (Elvio Quinteros Betencourt), who was the leader of the so-called union faction.

This investigation led to the identification, arrest of 11 other persons against whom officials have started legal proceedings. They are: (Alberto Ortiz Feijo), alias Number 2, (Clelio), or (Walter), deputy leader of the party's union faction. He was directly responsible for the textile, public health, graphic arts, transportation, metal industry and meat sectors. He has been a party member since 1 December 1966. To fulfill his specific task he received propaganda, instructions and political and union indoctrination from the Communist Party Domestic Center Political Secretariat -- the top-ranking communist organization carrying out clandestine operations. To carry out his activities he used special security measures and houses that were also supplied by the Political Secretariat.

(Henrique Lopez Santiago), was responsible for the [word indistinct] sector. He has been a Communist Party member since 30 September 1971. He is an old communist leader who was active in the national meat packing factory and was president of that union. He enabled the Communist Party to dominate the decision-making process of that sector. He used material that was supplied by (Ortiz Feijo).

(Alcibiades Techera Arnones) was responsible for the transportation sector. He has been a Communist Party member since 1966. He had frequent meetings with (Ortiz Feijo) but he received propaganda material from (Milton Rene Morales), another old communist activist in the former bus drivers union association and the former CNT [National Convention of Workers].

(Roberto Aranzazu Maireles Sosa), alias The Magician, was responsible for the graphic arts sector. He has been a member of the Communist Party since 1966. He worked at the newspaper EL POPULAR until it was closed. According to his own confession since 1974 he has worked in the propaganda sector of the party and has been entrusted with the printing of the clandestine pamphlet letter of the Communist Party. He was under the direct responsibility of leader (Guillermo Israel), who was expelled from Uruguay in 1975 on charges of carrying out activities against the nation, and of (Lenin de los Santos), who is a fugitive.

Since (Israel) was expelled and (Lenin de los Santos) disappeared, (Maireles) and other party members tried to reorganize the so-called southern area group. But since he failed, he took charge of the graphic arts sector with which he was clearly identified in view of his old job at the newspaper EL POPULAR.

(Luis Alberto Viera Cruz), a party member since 1977, was responsible for the ANCAP [National Fuels, Alcohol and Cement Administration] sector. He was under the orders of (Nelso Cohello Cornejo), who is undergoing legal proceedings.

(Jesus Marcos Eguren Gonzales), a party member since July 1957, was responsible for the textile sector and began to work for the party 1 year prior to his membership in the so-called workers textile congress. In 1979 he began to receive subversive propaganda on a periodic basis from another leader. He distributed this propaganda among workers at the Ildu factory and to other undercover militants.

(Jaime Lopez Suarez), who was also responsible for the textile sector and a party member since 1967, carried out clandestine operations at the (?Sadile) plant.

(Maria Beatriz Martinez de Auzoto de Morales), alias La Gorda, a party member since 1971, was responsible for the metal, leather, and CONAPROLE [National Milk Producers Cooperative]. Because of her activity she was promoted to high-ranking posts in clandestine activities, but when she wanted to withdraw from these posts because of family problems she was not allowed to do so and was threatened with expulsion from the party.

(Ruben Leonardo Pereira Hernandez), was also operating in the graphic arts sector and held meetings with both (Ortiz Feijo) and (Mairelles Soza), from whom he received propaganda and indoctrination material. He has been a Communist Party member since 1958.

(Limar Silva) was active in CONAPROLE trying to win sympathizers to the cause.

SINAI PEACE TASK MILITARY CONTINGENT LEAVES

PY131752 Montevideo Radio El Salvador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] The armed forces this afternoon will say farewell to the military contingent that will participate in the multinational peace force in the Sinai region. A military parade will take place at the Airbase No 1 at 1730; Col Alejandro Martinez will address the troops on the occasion. The group that will leave this afternoon will be made up of 17 men, while the remaining group will leave on Monday. These troops -- headed by Lt Col Juan Carlos Grosso -- will meet in the United States first, and will then be sent to the zone where they will fulfill their tasks.

MINES MINISTER REFERS TO OPEC'S CRUCIAL MONTHS

PA151453 Paris AFP in Spanish 1330 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Caracas, 15 Mar (AFP) -- "These are crucial months for OPEC," Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti said yesterday. The minister leaves tomorrow for Vienna to participate in the OPEC ministers consultation meeting, with a delegation that includes the top representatives of the nation's oil industry.

According to Calderon, the coming months will be crucial to all OPEC member-nations, including Saudi Arabia, which has decided to maintain a unilateral policy concerning production levels. "The problem," the minister said, "is not only for OPEC, but also the nonaffiliated producing countries. "Everyone," he concluded, "is interested in a concerted effort to defend their nonrenewable resources." Speaking of exports, Calderon noted that Venezuela is exporting 1,532,000 barrels daily; that is, 40,000 barrels daily more than it had scheduled.

BULGARIAN STATE COUNCIL LEADER ARRIVES ON VISIT

PA060310 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, arrived in Venezuela yesterday for a 4-day visit.

During his visit Tanchev will be delivering awards to Venezuelan personalities on occasion of the celebration of the 1,300th anniversary of the founding of the Bulgarian State. He will also meet with President Luis Herrera Campins, Agriculture and Livestock Minister Jose Luis Zapata and leaders of Venezuelan political parties.

Meets Herrera

PA141850 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Petur Tanchev, secretary of the Bulgarian Agrarian People's Union and first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, has been received by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins at Miraflores Palace.

Tanchev is visiting Venezuela to exchange views on bilateral relations. During the meeting, Tanchev reiterated Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov's invitation to the Venezuelan president to visit Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian leader said bilateral relations are developing quite well and added that Herrera agreed yesterday that the world must develop amid peace and cooperation among peoples because this is the only option.

BRIEFS

ORINOCO OIL RESERVES -- Caracas, 7 Mar (AFP) -- According to conservative estimates, the Orinoco oil belt contains 200,000 million barrels of hydrocarbons. Armando Herrera, manager of planning and coordination of this great oil reservoir, has reported that the three priority exploitation areas are Cerro Negro, northern Hamaca and Zuata-Santa Clara in the Venezuelan jungle area on the banks of the Orinoco River. He reported that 603 advanced exploration wells have been drilled there and 420 production tests were carried out. He said that those areas have shown high productivity through conventional methods and adequate conditions for production through the injection of steam. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1634 GMT 7 Mar 82 PA]

CASTANEDA: MEETING WITH HAIG CLOSED GAPS

FL151329 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2110 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] New York, 14 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda, following a meeting with his U.S. counterpart, Alexander Haig, indicated that the meeting has considerably reduced the gap in views between the two countries. For his part, Haig expressed to Castaneda his country's opinion on matters discussed the previous week and voiced new proposals.

Castaneda announced that the results of the meeting will be made known to Cuba and Nicaragua by the Mexican Government, which stands ready to make proposals to these countries, and added that this could take place next week, although it has not been decided if Castaneda himself will be handling this matter.

The chiefs of diplomacy of the two countries agreed to take up the topic of El Salvador after the elections of 28 March, "because before the elections it would be difficult to have a concrete idea in this respect," they indicated.

Referring to the shipments of arms to El Salvador from Nicaragua, Castaneda stated that this is a principal problem whose solution could not be accomplished by itself, but within a global context. This means that the flow of arms must stop in exchange for "something" which would be valid from the point of view of the Nicaraguans, Castaneda indicated, and added that this had been the topic discussed with Haig.

He stated that the Cuban Government also endorses Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo's proposal in Managua; that he is convinced that Cuba "is anxious to negotiate everything it can to normalize its relations with the United States."

COLUMNIST SAYS CASTRO WILLING TO TALK WITH U.S.

FL152037 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1850 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The severe international tension may lead either into peace through intelligent negotiations or into a suicidal war with its detonator in Central America, Cuban President Fidel Castro said during a party in Havana.

Columnist Manuel Buendia, who writes "Private Network" for the daily EXCELSIOR, says that Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart and Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez took part in the conversation, along with Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez; and that Castro expressed his respect for the peace plan proposed by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo. In this connection, he added that he would be willing to undertake negotiations with the United States to ease tensions in the Caribbean.

The Cuban president praised the "decisive role in a decisive moment" that Mexico is playing in the Central American conflict, and said: "I trust in the adversary's intelligence," adding: If Jose Lopez Portillo's stand is successful, peace could also be possible in Africa and the Middle East.

Fidel Castro expressed hopes that the "Yankees" would understand that Lopez Portillo's speech in Managua had given them a dignified way out. Castro concluded: "I see possibilities.... there are hopeful signs for easing tension between Cuba and the United States."

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON EL SALVADOR HUMAN RIGHTS

FL121745 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0150 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico is negotiating with the Salvadoran Government to obtain safe-conduct for a Nicaraguan student who has been granted asylum for the last week at the Mexican Embassy in El Salvador. Alfonso Rosenweing-Diaz, deputy secretary of foreign relations, said that the negotiations are going through very delicate grounds." The Nicaraguan student, (Lidgamis Anaxis Gutierrez), who is registered at a Mexican university took refuge at the Mexican Embassy after escaping from the Salvadoran police, according to the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations.

In another report, the Secretariat of Foreign Relations announced that the UN Commission on Human Rights had approved a resolution -- sponsored by Mexico, among other countries -- in Geneva today regarding the situation of human rights in El Salvador. The Secretariat said that the resolution makes no reference to the 25 March Salvadoran elections, but repeats the appeal made by the UN General Assembly to the Salvadoran Government to work together with all the Salvadoran political forces toward a negotiated political solution. The voting on the resolution was: 25 countries in favor, 5 against and 13 abstained.

DEPUTY ADMITS SPLIT IN UNIFIED SOCIALIST PARTY

FL152244 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2125 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Although he admitted that there were splits in the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM), Communist Deputy Carlos Sanchez Cardenas has said that these differences would be surmounted with a serene and thorough analysis of the problems that exist. He said that the Puebla and Tlaxcala delegations walked out of the national congress because of the university problem in Puebla and because those who attended are not representative.

He added that these delegations, however, will support the decisions adopted by the PSUM Central Committee, which will elect [several words indistinct] secretary general are Arnoldo Martines Verdugo and Alejandro Gascon Mercado. Some other candidate might emerge since the 75 members of the Central Committee all have an equal chance.

Sanchez Cardenas said that the next secretary general of the PSUM will be a coordinator rather than a political boss and his duties will be restricted by a political commission that will closely follow the work he does.

PEMEX GAS PIPELINE EXPLODES, CAUSE UNKNOWN

FL121620 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0650 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] Xalapa, 11 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The San Joaquin-Tabasco-Fortin-Veracruz leg of the PEMEX gas pipeline exploded at 2000 tonight at kilometer 41 of the Tierra Blanca-Tinajas road. At the time of the explosion, flames climbed to hundreds of meters in altitude but by the time PEMEX security forces began operations the flames had died down. The cause for the explosion of the 32-inch pipeline is unknown at this time. Firemen from Veracruz, Cordoba and Orizaba responded immediately after the incident. The flames reached electric cables and caused a loss of power which left the town of Tierra Blanca in almost total darkness. Hundreds of persons from nearby areas had to be evacuated from their homes. No one was hurt. The flames reached the Tierra Blanca-Tinajas road at the time of the explosion.

NATIONAL GUARD CHANGES POLICE CORPS COMMAND

PA122115 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Mar 82 p 2

[Text] The change of command for the police corps took place yesterday morning in a ceremony at National Guard headquarters. Lt Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, deputy chief of the National Guard General Staff; and Lt Col Angel Mina Justiniani, G-1 of the National Guard General Staff, were present, along with other ranking national guard officers. During the ceremony, Lt Col Marcos Justines Fernandez turned the command flag over to Lt Col Noriega, who in turn gave it to Lt Col Elias Castillo Figueroa, the incoming chief of the police corps.

The new police chief praised the work performed by his predecessor and urged the officers, NCO's and troops of this organization to work together with him as a team following Colonel Justines' example of institutional professionalism, so that Panamanians will regard the men in uniform as an example of high moral standards and irreproachable civic virtues, as becomes those whose duty is to guarantee the security, peace and tranquillity of everyone in this country.

For his part, Lieutenant Colonel Noriega, on behalf of Col Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the National Guard, said that the role of the police corps is of great importance to society, because people demand more each day from this armed institution in safeguarding the security of their lives and property.

The deputy chief of the National Guard General Staff stressed the new responsibilities that the police corps will have in controlling, guarding and ensuring security for the former canal zone.

Finally, Lieutenant Colonel Noriega urged all members of the police corps to view this ceremony as an inspiration for continued work for the benefit of the community, under the slogan "Everything for the fatherland."

FLOREZ REPORTEDLY 'UNDER CUSTODY IN HIS HOME'

PA151310 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Mar 82 p 1A

[Excerpts] Former National Guard Commander Col Florencio Florez Aguilar's presence at a private dinner seemed to confirm in part rumors about his refusal to accept his retirement, which was agreed on by the General Staff on 3 March. The colonel reportedly looked depressed and although he refused to comment on his "retirement," he did say it had been "unexpected."

Rumors circulated last week both here and abroad about the effects that the military officer's situation might have on national developments. According to a high-ranking National Guard public relations official contacted by this paper last week, the necessary consultations would be conducted in order to issue some official statement in this regard. No such statement has been issued yet.

The now retired Colonel Florez is still under "custody" in his home in Nuevo Reparto El Carmen, where he remains virtually incommunicado. His phone is answered by someone who identifies himself as "a member of the domestic staff" who does not accept any personal calls. Armed guards and persons in civilian dress do not permit access to Florez' home, which they guard around the clock.

According to a rumor heard in military circles, Florez was flown in a helicopter to Contadora Island very early on Wednesday, 6 March, in order to keep him away until "things quieted down." Two days later, he was brought back home, where he is still under custody.

According to our source, Florez' retirement initially elicited the rejection of certain "intermediate commands," which protested to the General Staff. However, this reaction was spontaneously neutralized. Protesters reportedly included a high-ranking officer of the "Tigres de Tinajita" riflemen's company. He was later transferred to another less important military zone.

According to sources close to the Assembly of Representatives, President Royo "was caught off guard" when he was handed Florez' retirement papers in the palace. His initial refusal to accept the situation led to a delay of several hours before the announcement could be made to the country.

Political analysts feel that the National Guard's commands are currently divided between Colonels Ruben Paredes and Manuel Antonio Noriega. The latter is deputy chief of the General Staff and head of the G-2, or military intelligence body.

According to observers of the national scene, only Colonel Florez Aguilar will be able to answer the citizens' questions about his unexpected retirement.

PDC PRESIDENT DESCRIBES MILITARY RESHUFFLE AS COUP

PA150035 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Mar 82 p 8-A

[Article by Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party; "The Military Coup"]

[Text] The coup stage last Wednesday by certain military men against the National Guard and the government it sustains has serious implications for Panama. Whatever shuffling and reshuffling for position, power and privilege may have occurred, the basic issue in dispute is the role which the armed institution is to play in the nation's activities.

The National Guard was at the crossroads of institutional professionalism and national and international political activism. The coup has now led it on to the second path. The result is negative for Panama's democratization. The fact there was a coup and the way it was handled reduced the president of the republic to the sad role of announcer of changes which, according to the constitution, he should have made himself. Events and the imagination indicate that he had barely been informed of these charges before he announced them with an obvious lack of enthusiasm. Civilian authority, which had been trying so hard to recover from long years of subordination, has been deprived of even the appearance of being in command.

Meanwhile, we find that the person who has risen to the office of Commander [of the National Guard] has been preparing his presidential candidacy over the past months. From that post he can either complete this preparation, with no opposition from the National Guard, or try to act as de facto president without worrying about holding the official title. Anyway, the military will once again be in the front line of political activity. It will be exposed to partisan controversy and conflicts and it will also have become an obstacle to true democratization, which requires an effort to make the 1984 elections credible and to achieve through those elections the renovation of civilian institutions.

The military coup has likewise reduced the National Guard's ability to guarantee national security. Since 1968, there have been more irregular changes in the top ranks of the National Guard than in any other equivalent period in our republican history. This has been due, not to the meddling of politicians in military affairs, but to the military's politicization. This instability must have affected the institution's structure, discipline and morale.

A professional and well-respected National Guard, precisely because it would be kept outside partisan politics, would be able to guarantee maximum order with a minumum display of force.

On the contrary, a National Guard that is politicized and controversial, and subjected to unforeseen internal changes, will be inclined to use too much force to achieve insufficient order. While being an obstacle to democratization, it could be a hazard to security which requires the broadest, voluntary compliance from the population and the most deeply-rooted, proven esprit de corps on the part of the public forces.

In the face of events such as the recent military coup, prudence and uncertainty might recommend keeping silent or speaking softly. However, when the fatherland's fundamental welfare is at stake, it is one's unavoidable duty to speak clearly. The individuals responsible for the military coup must be made to see that many Panamanians believe their action to be mistaken and counterproductive. As Panamanians who must also try to be worthy of the fatherland, they can, if not undo, at least rectify the course of what they have done.

For this rectification, several steps must necessarily be taken. First, there must be a firm pledge, without mental reservations, that there will be no military candidate in 1984, so that the National Guard will not be a factor in the dispute.

Second, the electoral tribunal must be reorganized so that all participants may have confidence in the elections.

Third, the elections must serve as a vehicle for people to express themselves for or against a change of the constitution, so that our institutions may respond to the people's will. Fourth, organizational regulations must be drafted for the National Guard so that its role in society is clear and its function becomes orderly. These measures require not only physical, but also moral courage. However, it is not too much to ask such courage of those who because of their profession and, also because of their recent decision, have placed themselves in a position precisely requiring such courage. The fatherland will judge them according to whether they display that courage or evade it.

BUSINESS LEADER PRAISES PAREDES' CALL FOR UNITY

PA140049 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Mar 82 p 8C

[By Emerson Moreno]

[Text] Engineer Dulcidio Gonzalez, president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP), has described the statement by National Guard Commander Col Ruben Dario Paredes as positive. As a citizen and a businessman, Gonzalez believes that Commander Paredes' statement is positive because it leaves politicking aside in favor or statesmanship, articulating the foundations for the creating of an atmosphere of social peace and tranquillity in this country.

The business leader attached great importance to Paredes' call for all Panamanians to join forces in an effort to achieve national unity. "Commander Paredes asked Panamanians for national unity. When he speaks of national unity, he means for all of us to start working to solve the problems of hunger and misery in this country."

In support of this call, the CONEP president said that "this call deserves our full attention" and, more importantly, he stressed, "not only our full attention, but our greatest cooperation." Referring to Colonel Paredes' remarks on communism, Gonzalez said: "I go along with Commander Paredes and, like him, I say that all of us Panamanians who disagree with the communists' behavior, thought and feeling are antidotes to counteract the effects of this ideology."

"We must become antidotes," he continued, "to keep Marxism from penetrating the structure of the democratic nation in which we live." Continuing, the CONEP president said: "Let us recognize that the commander and the National Guard are decisive factors for a number of reasons that needn't be detailed, but the fact that a call for national unity has come from the National Guard with a view toward confronting this country's problems deserves our support."

EL SALVADOR

GARCIA BLAMES COUP RUMORS ON TERRORISTS

PA151335 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 8 Mar 82 p 36

[Text] Defense and Public Security Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia yesterday stressed the armed forces' unity when consulted about alleged plans for a coup d'etat, murders and dismissals of ranking military and public officials. Garcia said that such unfounded rumors are spread by terrorist groups for the purpose of confusing national and international public opinion.

The defense minister noted that in view of the threat of international communism, the armed institution has strengthened its role as defender of the people, whom it must serve in the interest and defense of the nation's sovereignty, threatened by foreign terrorism. He asked the people to have confidence in their armed forces which, as the guarantor of the nationality, life and property of the inhabitants, will never be destroyed by those who are trying to gain power through murder, blackmail, extortion, kidnapping, dynamiting, etc.

He concluded by stating that the terrorist groups should take advantage of the amnesty instead of continuing to destroy, attack, steal and murder innocent peasants or citizens in general. He asked all Salvadorans to prepare for the electoral process because, he explained, it is the most convenient step to show the world the true opposition of the Salvadoran people to the scheme of violence.

PEASANTS RALLY FOR PEACE, NONVIOLENCE

PA152355 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 15 Mar 82 pp 9, 23

[Excerpts] Saturday morning, thousands of peasants in this capital rallied for peace and nonviolence. The rally was attended by several organizations, members of the Democratic Popular Unity, including the Salvadoran Peasants Union (UTS), ACOPIA [expansion unknown], and the Farm Workers Union (UTC). Also in attendance were some representatives of the Salvadoran Workers Federation (CTS), the Federation of Trade Unions of the Workers of the Construction and Related Industries, Transport and other activities (FESINCONSTRANS) and others. The rally left from Las Americas Plaza and went east along Roosevelt Boulevard and Ruben Dario Street to Libertad Plaza where some of the top leaders made an appeal for peace.

Francisco Zaldana, secretary general of FESINCONSTRANS and a member of the UTD leadership, was the first to speak. He said that the peasants no longer want violence, destruction or terrorism; therefore, they want the people to make their own decision.

Gilberto Barahona [not further identified] said "The peasants must unite and together struggle for peace in our bleeding country, since only united is it possible to achieve development and greatness."

To conclude, Jose Luis Grande Preza, secretary general of the Salvadoran Workers Central (CTS) and leader of the Popular Democratic Unity (UPD), said, "This morning has confirmed that the Salvadoran peasants do not need rifles, machineguns and tanks, because many things can be achieved peacefully, without resorting to arms." Grande Preza noted that the peasants have always been used by political parties and the government, to whom he said, "enough is enough." He added that in the UTD, the rural and urban workers come first.

Grande Preza also exhorted all Salvadorans to vote on 28 March for those they believe will help them solve their problems. He also criticized the governments of Cuba, Nicaragua, Poland and others, urging them to release their political prisoners. He stressed that the peasants and workers of El Salvador do not agree to suspend elections.

It is worth mentioning that throughout the rally, there was no disorderly behavior or violence, although some drivers failed to yield to and drove their cars through the long line of people. As to the number of participants in the rally, some observers and reporters believe there were at least 8 to 10 blocks filled with people who carried small white banners to symbolize peace.

ARMY REPORTS DESTRUCTION OF CHAPELTIQUE BRIDGE

PA152134 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1705 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- A military source reported today that last weekend a group of guerrillas dynamited the Chapeltique bridge, over the Chapeltique River, in the northern department of San Miguel. The source said that the bridge was totally destroyed, but that vehicular and pedestrian traffic have not been halted because a temporary bridge across the river was built some 4 months ago when the main bridge was damaged in an attack. He added that the rebels dynamited the bridge on Saturday, but there was no confrontation because no army guards were in the area.

GUERRILLAS ATTACK NORTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF CAPITAL

PA160212 Paris AFP in Spanish 0116 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Excerpts] San Salvador 15 Mar (AFP) -- The northern outskirts of San Salvador were shaken this afternoon by a heavy shootout when FMLN guerrilla columns entered Cuscantancingo and urged the people to rebel. The guerrilla attack, was repelled by members of the 1st Infantry Brigade. Rebel casualties are unknown. The shoot-out, which went on for 2 hours, disrupted the whole zone and extended into Mexicanos, part of Ciudad Delgado and Panama District; and into the vicinity of the El Salvador's main garrison.

The clashes continued with great intensity for 2 hours, and when the army confirmed at sunset that they were in control of the situation, sporadic shots could still be heard.

Bus service to the northern part of the city was suspended and the people were crowded at the bus terminals looking for some means to return to their homes.

During the first hours of the night, and extremely tense atmosphere persisted throughout the outskirts of San Salvador, while the Red Cross evacuated many wounded. So far, there have not been any reports on the number of dead and wounded as a result of the riots, although it is presumed that the number could be high.

FMLN Reports Attack

PA160204 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2100 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Attention, Salvadoran people; attention, peoples of the world:

At this moment of the afternoon we report that FMLN columns have taken the township of Cuscatancingo on the outskirts of San Salvador. We repeat, FMLN columns have taken the township of Cuscatancingo on the outskirts of the capital. In this special program of Radio Venceremos, the official voice of our vanguard will be accompanying our combatants, our militiamen and the residents of Cuscatancingo in this event in which our peoples are advancing while the enemy is retreating.

We call on all residents of Cuscatancingo to join the tasks suggested by our combatants at this moment. We ask them to join in digging trenches and erecting barricades, to provide our forces tools to build these trenches and these barricades of liberty, to provide our forces all types of information.

The people's popular committees of Cuscatancingo are asked to prepare the glass containers, bottles, gasoline, and all the supplies we have been collecting for making molotov cocktails which will halt all enemy advance. We ask the committees to give our FMLN columns the maps of Cuscatancingo which we have drafted beforehand. These maps give all types of information on repressive elements, informants, enemy concentration, and all types of information.

At this time, 1523 in the afternoon, we have been informed, directly from Cuscatancingo, that our army has recovered two G-3 rifles. Also, Radio Romantica of Cuscatancingo was occupied by our forces which broadcast messages to the residents of Cuscatancingo, asking them to join the tasks suggested this afternoon by our companeros. We must note that this is the first time that the FMLN forces made incursions in the outskirts of the capital during the day, in broad daylight, thus demonstrating the operational capabilities of our forces.

Cuscatancingo is located on the outskirts of San Salvador and because of its urban development it has understandably been annexed to the capital. Its population numbers several thousand, mostly workers. Cuscatancingo is by tradition a bastion of the revolution and resistance in the antioligarchic and antifascist struggle. We recall 16 October 1979 when the peoples of Cuscatancingo gave heroic examples in the combat against imperialist maneuvers. Today Cuscatancingo remains present in the people's struggle.

Reports from Cuscatancingo indicate that fierce fighting is now underway in the southern flank as well as other parts of the outskirts of the capital, in Cuscatancingo. At 1526 FMLN forces maintain absolute control of this important township on the outskirts of the capital.

FMLN COMMENTS ON MILITARY, POLITICAL STATUS

Refugees' Situation in Honduras

PA121410 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] We have received a report from persons, who asked not to be identified, revealing the desperate situation of Salvadoran refugees in Guarita, Guajiniquil and La Virtud. On 25 February the refugees, (Oscar Enrique Otero) and (Teodoro Aleman), were arrested for no reason, by orders of Lieutenant (Dominguez), who is in charge of the military post in Guarita. On 2 March as a result of the efforts made by some social workers in the refugee camps, they were released. On 3 March the refugees were taken to the (?coast) by Lieutenant (Dominguez), where they were shot in an alleged attempt to escape. Lieutenant (Dominguez) cynically claimed that the refugees had escaped after they had been released.

On 4 March, Honduran soldiers surrounded La Virtud refugee camp and started firing their weapons to try to terrorize the refugees.

On 5 March Salvadoran soldiers arrived in La Virtud refugee camps. The bodies of (Antonio Enamorado) and (Antonio Degon) were found that same night. They were refugees of the Guajiniquil camp, who had been murdered 6 days before.

On 7 March a helicopter arrived at La Virtud leaving two civilians who crossed to Salvadoran territory. The soldiers that were in the helicopter left for Guajiniquil. That same night the bodies of four refugees from Mapulaca were found. They were identified as refugees captured the day before by troops of the genocidal junta. They were identified as (Jose Sevel), 45; (Alcidio Vives), 44; (Salvador Rivera), 48. According to witnesses, a Salvadoran and a Honduran were taken in the helicopter to an undisclosed place.

Lieutenant (Dominguez) announced that as of 14 March, the Honduran Army would no longer be responsible for the life of anyone at the refugee camps.

On denouncing these cowardly attacks against our defenseless fellow citizens, we reiterate our call to international humanitarian organizations and personalities to go to these refugee camps and to exert all sorts of pressure so that the lives and desires of our fellow citizens are respected. Fellow citizen in refugee camps, we urge you to return to the zones under the control of our revolutionary forces, where the people are already building the new fatherland.

Advice to Citizens

PA121344 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] Salvadorans, your attention: You must continue opposing the electoral farce in every way possible. Do not pay attention to the genocidal junta's propaganda. Do not listen to domestic service's scurrilous broadcasts or to the political parties electoral campaigns. Turn off your radio when the domestic service network goes on the air. Turn off your television set when the junta starts making appeals on behalf of the electoral farce. Do not attend the meetings of political parties. Do not go to the polls on 28 March. Listen to Radio Farabundo Marti; do not listen to the disgraceful broadcasts of the domestic service network.

Actions in La Union

PA121614 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Report issued by the FMLN Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front, La Union area]

[Text] On 27 February at 0900, the enemy tried to surround our FMLN forces in (El Cantillo), Agua Calite and (El Portillo). During this operation the enemy used 300 men, a company from San Miguel and another from La Union. Our forces were maintaining their positions when they detected the enemy operation. A revolutionary unit evaded the encirclement and attacked the enemy's rearguard. Intense battles were waged. Two other revolutionary units attacked a patrol coming from Agua Caliente. In this intense battle, seven casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Our forces evaded the encirclement and withdrew without problem.

On 2 March FMLN special forces attacked two positions on the littoral highway in the area of El Guasimo, La Union Department. The enemy had maintained those positions for several days, thus being able to control the highway. At around 0600, our forces attacked the first position. There was intense fighting. Our forces then withdrew. At 0930, our forces attacked the second position located 200 meters from the first. After heavy fighting, the enemy received support from a helicopter and a light aircraft, strafing for 1 hour the positions held by our forces. Our forces withdrew in an orderly manner without problem. According to reports by the residents of the area, the enemy sustained three casualties.

On 3 March our forces on Conchagua mountain were surprised by the enemy on a routine patrol. Our forces fought the enemy until it was forced to flee in disarray. We were unable to confirm the number of enemy casualties. Our forces withdrew in an orderly manner without problem.

On 4 March at 1300, the enemy launched a combing operation on Conchagua mountain. Two airplanes, a Ouragan and a Fouga Magister, strafed the positions maintained by our companeros the day before. Our forces evaded the enemy's encirclement. At 2100 they attacked the enemy's positions on Conchagua. Our forces used M-79 grenade launchers and rifle fire, killing one and wounding many. Our forces withdrew to their positions in an orderly manner without problem.

On 6 March at 1700, FMLN military forces seized (El Pique) canton, La Union Department, to harangue the townspeople. A paramilitary post in that canton was attacked by the FMLN.

Our forces also seized an enemy post in the town, recovering a 20-guage shotgun with 6 cartridges and .38 cal revolver with 12 bullets. Our forces withdrew in an orderly manner and without problem.

On 9 March at 0231, our FMLN forces, used RPG-2, M-79 and rifle fire against the enemy's position at (El Quebradon) bridge in El Gavilan, La Union Department. As a result of the surprise attack by our forces, the enemy fled in disorder since it was unable to reply to our fire. Our forces seized the heights which had been held by the enemy and then withdrew in an orderly manner and without problem. The number of enemy casualties could not be confirmed. United to fight until the final victory, revolution or death, we will win. [Signed] Commander Juan Ramon Medrano, Balta.

Helicopter Damaged

PA121712 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 12 Mar 82

[Text] We now have a report from the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front, sent by Commander Jorge Melendez, "Jonas." He says that yesterday in Morazan the FMLN damaged a helicopter between Yoloaiguin and Delicias de Concepcion. The helicopter crashed in Osicala. This event took place after our units had ambushed one enemy convoy of three trucks taking 120 soldiers from Gotera to Mearguera to reinforce enemy positions encircled by the FMLN near the recently destryed bridge over the Torola River. The helicopter was going to reinforce the ambushed convoy. Fighting lasted from noon to 1800.

This was the second major blow inflicted by the FMLN on the dictatorship yesterday, since it had first destroyed the route over the Torola River and then damaged a helicopter. We report that during yesterday's clashes in Morazan, Companero (Pedro Leon Pineda) died and two men were slightly wounded. The enemy sustained many casualties. This is a report from the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front sent to us by Commander Jorge Melendez, "Jonas."

Buses Destroyed

PA121925 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 12 Mar 82

[War report from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in San Salvador]

[Text] On Tuesday, 9 March, at 1930, FMLN guerrilla commando groups sabotaged 10 urban buses in San Salvador. The buses were sabotaged at the following places: 1) One bus from route 5, on 22d St. west; 2) One bus from route 301, on 14th Ave south; 3) Two buses, one from route 301 and one from route 101, near AEA [Salvadoran Bus Owners Association] headquarters on Gerardo Barrios St; 4) One bus from route 302, damaged on 18th St west, near the Iberia Theater; 5) Two buses, one from route 33 and from route 34, on the road to El Progreso, three blocks from the military hospital; 6) Three more buses, from routes 1, 31 and 33, on (Los Diplomaticos) Ave, where the Regis Theatre is located. United to fight until final victory; revolution or death, we will win! [Signed] Commander Alejandro Montenegro, San Salvador.

Military School Graduation

PA121945 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Report from the FMLN Apolinario Serrano Northern Front -- via live or recorded relay]

[Text] New Graduation of Fighters in the FMLN Apolinario Serrano Northern Front.

In Chalatenango, 165 combatants joined the local guerrillas after having attended the military training programs for 2 months in our school in the northern front.

Eleven platoon chiefs graduated from one of the courses which ended this week at the (Patanera) military school. They will form new guerrilla detachments in Chalatenango. This course was given the name "Companero Jaime and other heroes of Nueva Trinidad, present."

The (?graduation) began with the swearing-in of the new platoon chiefs. A military parade was then held and of course, a joyful popular party was then held in our front. The training of the combatants is carried out by the personnel and political-military training section of the staff of the northern front through instruction teams assigned to the military schools of the front. In the [name indistinct] military school, 60 combatants (?joined) the local guerrillas and in (Esquipuras), 75 revolutionaries joined the ranks of the guerrilla detachments after an intense military course in the territories under our control. Of this last group, 35 combatants specialized in explosives, traps and engineering.

The personnel section has begun a campaign to promote the incorporation of women in the local guerrillas and in the vanguard units. At this time in our war front, 3 out of 10 combatants are women, not counting the dozens of companeras who are involved in other tasks in the people's liberation guerrillas.

U.S. Advisers in Honduras

PA122020 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] The democratic and progressive Honduran forces have condemned the secret talks between President Suazo Cordova and U.S. Government officials. The Yankee government's plan to install military bases in the neighboring country of Honduras has been revealed. If Yankee imperialism's plans are implemented, it would be the culmination of lengthy work by imperialism within the Honduran Armed Forces. This work was intensified in 1981 with the coming to power of Ronald Reagan.

Yankee imperialism's intervention is seen in all branches of the Honduran Armed Forces. Two Yankee officers are teaching in the military academy and the Honduran officers' school. Five Yankee advisers are training Honduran soldiers in the use of military communications. Three other Yankee advisers are in charge of improving military intelligence. One of these specializes in compiling aerial photos. Six advisers direct operations dealing with confiscation of weapons through border controls. Five other Yankee advisers are providing advise and direct operations of the Honduran Air Force.

The Yankee government has officially admitted the presence of 27 advisers in Honduras. The United States wants to trample Honduran sovereignty and to use Honduras as a center of operations for aggression against the Central American peoples. However, the Honduran people will not permit the trampling of their sovereignty by imperialism. In the face of imperialist intervention, Central America is getting ready.

U.S. Aggression Charged

PA131737 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 11 Mar 82

[Text] The Yankees are now appearing in Costa Rica. Under the pretext of training Costa Rican pilots for high altitude flights, six U.S. helicopters from the Panama Canal Zone recently transported 73 crew members to Costa Rican territory. This new affront to the dignity and sovereignty of Central American people soils the land of Juan Santamaria, a patriot who fought last century against the forces of Yankee filibuster William Walter.

The democratic and progressive forces and the Costa Rican people repudiate this imperialist maneuver that occurs with the complicity of the current Costa Rican leaders. For a free Central America, liberated by the extended popular war! In the face of imperialist aggression, Central America prepares!

Train, Warehouse Sabotaged

PA132357 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Commander (Mayo Cibrian), chief of staff of our Modesto Ramirez Central War Front, has informed us of two important sabotage actions carried out by our guerrilla units. On 10 March, between 1800 and 2000, a guerrilla platoon destroyed a freight train in Netapa jurisdiction, some 18 km from San Salvador. During the action, our forces clashed with the national guardsmen protecting the train. Our revolutionary forces suffered no casualties. As a result of this sabotage, the train's cargo, including an oilcar, was totally destroyed. Only the train's engine was left in good condition.

On 9 March, guerrilla units penetrated the San Francisco sugar mill, in Aguilares jurisdiction. They destroyed the raw material warehouses, causing an estimated 250,000 colones in damage. On that occasion also, our revolutionary forces withdrew without any problem, evading the National Guard.

Our companero's report says that the destruction of the oligarchy's property was visible to many guerrilla units and people in general from the heights of Guazapa Hill. Combative sabotage to defeat the enemy's maneuvers!

Honduran President Warned

PA140007 (Cladestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Attention: To all our people, attention; next Sunday, 14 March, a large military maneuver will presumably be conducted in the Honduran border area of Chalatenango, Cabanas, and Morazan Departments, as denounced by the Honduran Coordinating Board of Solidarity With Our People. The communique from the coordinating board said that the Honduran special counterinsurgency corps and more than 65 foreign military advisers, including (?Yankees) and Argentines will participate in the operation. The foreign military advisers recently arrived in Tegucigalpa from El Salvador and are at some undisclosed place in Honduras.

Knowing of the desire for peace of the brotherly people of Honduras, the Honduran Coordinating Board of Solidarity With Our People has demanded that Mr Suazo Cordova not interfere in the internal affairs of our country. We hereby repeat to Mr Suazo Cordova that the cost of his interventionism will be the spread of our war onto his territory. We don't want to interrupt the peace of the Honduran people who most probably agree with our just struggle for peace, but we are willing to fight in any terrain and under any circumstance. With international solidarity, we will defeat the criminal intervention.

Cantons Reject Elections

PA140144 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Attention foreign newsmen, all of our people, your attention. Our people of the Paracentral Front will not listen to the call to participate in the electoral farce. Our people have joined the local popular powers. We will now present a partial list of the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front cantons that are actively dedicated to the tasks of war production. All foreign reporters may visit our control zone in the Paracentral combative front and verify that these cantons have their own courts, their own legislatures, their own education and construction systems and other mechanisms of popular power.

These cantons are (El Quilio), El Moreno, Ayalita, (Borrera), Amatitan Arriba, Amatitan Abajo, Soledad, Siempre Viva, Las Nubes, (El Carado), Pueblo Nuevo, Los Mangos, (Moncholon), (Ancianito), (Pealla de Piedra), San Bartolo, (Santones), (Marquezado), San Jacinto, (Azotes), Amates, (Ojos Buenos), Los Cerros, Anona, (Saura), Conejos, Canoa, San Carlos, Rancho Grande, Mata de Platanos, Naranjos, Las Delicias, El Mono, Coyolito, Anonos, Salero, Cantones El Salto, Colina, Laureles, Burrito, Piedra Grande, Palo Grande, Lomas de Angulo, (Pica Puente), San Benito, (Los Lotes), El Coyol, Las Sabanas, Poza Azul, Rio Arriba, Rio Grande and El Tablon, along with many other cantons and their settlements.

None of these paracentral front cantons will answer the call to the electoral farce. This is the reply of our heroic people to the genocides' calls for participation in the electoral farce. Let's defeat the electoral farce with popular organization!

Memorial Ceremony

PA141330 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 14 Mar 82

[War correspondent (Federico Serrano) report from FMLN Northern Front -- live or recorded relay]

[Text] Chalatenango, 13 March -- There was a ceremony today at one of the FMLN Apolinario Serrano Northern Front guerrilla bases in honor of the companeros killed in yesterday's battles on the road from Chalatenango to Las Flores. In that action, our guerrilla units ambushed a company of the puppet army traveling in five military trucks. The soldiers were returning to the Chalatenango garrison after being relieved by new troops in the posts at Arcatao, Nueva Trinidad, (Los Filos) and Las Flores.

At least 60 soldiers were killed and 25 were wounded. Among the dead is Sergeant (Leon), a criminal and torturer who had terrorized the civilians in Nueva Trinidad. Our companeros (Renato), (Jorge) and (Camilo) were killed. A posthumous ceremony was held in their honor with the presence of the masses, militias, guerrillas and vanguard units.

Companero (Felipe), second in command of the operation, recounted the ambush and stressed the way that our companeros died during the action. The ceremony was held in the community's plaza. (Renato's) body, covered with a red flag of the FMLN, was on one side of the plaza. A squad of the vanguard units wearing their olive-green uniform and carrying their M-16 rifles served as the honor guard in the ceremony.

Revolutionary slogans were chanted by the participants in the ceremony in honor of the dead companeros. The participants chanted with great emotion: We swear we will win for our dead companeros!

Commander (Dimas), chief of the vanguard units, referred in his speech to the operation and the death of our companeros during the battle. He said: [begin recording] Our forces have a popular character. This means that each of our combatants who is killed is the expression of our people, who have said they no longer want to be slaves. Our people have shown this in practice. Our people daily show that they want to be free. We are a few kilometers from where the enemy has a strategic garrison and from where yesterday 1/8 of that strategic garrison was annihilated. In other words, if we divided that force into eight parts, one of those eight parts was annihilated by our revolutionary forces yesterday. That is a blow that the enemy had never suffered before in a battle such as the one yesterday. [end recording]

There was also a religious service during the ceremony by a Christian leader who lead the prayers and the funeral of companero (Renato).

Warning to Honduras

PA141340 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] The foreign officers who recently arrived in Tegucigalpa to participate in a military operation against our people on the Salvadoran border with Honduras have been seen in a Tegucigalpa luxury hotel. The 70 officers come from South America, the United States and other countries. They have met under the pretext of the annual meeting of the Inter-American school. Radio Farabundo Marti reiterates to the Honduran Government that our people will not permit criminal aggression from Honduras. We will take our war to that neighboring country and thousands of Honduran soldiers will find a sure death. Suazo Cordova, your best option is the neutrality of Honduras. Your servility to the dictates of Washington will have serious consequences in your own country. For a liberated Central America, with the prolonged people's war!

Pressures in Army Cited

PA141440 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] According to FMLN intelligence sources, the internal pressures in the army of the military-Christian Democratic junta are reaching very high levels that could even lead to armed confrontations and mass desertions. This statement is based on the FMLN's interception of the dictatorship army's communications whereby the commander of the Sonsonate troops was heard warning his troops not to let any unit of another garrison desert to the (?side) of the guerrillas. If necessary, shoot to kill, the commander said during his communications with his units currently stationed in Calle Nueva, which is between San Salvador and Suchitoto. According to FMLN intelligence sources, the Sonsonate commander is loyal to the sector headed by Defense Minister General Garcia, described as fascist.

UN Support Noted

PA141450 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] The UN secretary general has approved Mexican President Lopez Portillo's pacification plan for Central America. UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has described Lopez Portillo's pacification plan for Central America as acceptable and promising. He thus supports a negotiated political solution to the Salvadoran conflict and concurrently rejects a military intervention and aggression by U.S. troops allied with the armies of the South American dictatorships.

Chapeltique Bridge Destroyed

PA142010 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Information received from the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front revealed that at 0130 rebel forces blew up the Chapeltique Bridge, between the towns of Chapeltique and Moncagua, in the northern part of San Miguel. The operation was headed by Companero (Israel). The blowing up of this bridge, and the one over the Torola River, in Morazan, has isolated the northern sectors of San Miguel and Morazan Departments.

Radio Venceremos Relay

PA141510 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 13 Mar 82

[Text] Attention, Attention. We have just established contact with our companeros on the norhtern front for further reports on this afternoon's activities by our vanguard units. Go ahead. [Begin relay] [words indistinct], 33, 44, 55. (?Hope you can copy). [end relay]

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT RETURNS HIJACKED PLANE TO NICARAGUA

PA150148 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2039 GMT 14 Mar 82

[Text] Managua, 14 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- On Saturday the Honduran Government returned the Sandinist Air Force C-47 aircraft that two deserting Nicaraguan Army Pilots took to Tegucigalpa on 7 March. Nicaraguan official sources reported today that on Saturday Col Walter Lopez, chief of the Honduran Air Force, turned the airplane over to Guillermo Suarez Rivas, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras. Gustavo Quezada and Octavio Barrerra, the pilots who fled to Honduras while taking the recently-repaired airplane on a test flight, are already in the United States. They were accompanied by the wife and children of one of the pilots.

On 1 January, Jose Mejia Flores and Daniel Rivera Gonzalez attempted to seize the presidential plane, the "19 July," in Managua. They were killed in the action, which the government described as sabotage.

ARMY SEIZES ARMS CONTRABAND FOR EL SALVADOR

PA151939 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Another arms shipment destined for the Salvadoran guerrillas has been seized by the army in Comayagua. Unofficial reports obtained by Radio America point out that the army's mobilization early Saturday morning and the evidence of intense crossfire indicate there was a clash.

Heavy rifle and machinegun fire early Saturday morning shook a sector of the old city of Comayagua whose residents began speculating about what had happened. However, it was unofficially reported yesterday that army units had seized arms contraband destined for Salvadoran territory.

Our reporters yesterday learned that two army platoons had seized three trucks carrying weapons on a detour between the road leading to the general headquarters of the 5th Infantry Battalion in (El Taladro), some 20 kms from the city of Comayagua, and the road leading to the city of La Paz.

In view of the military authorities' silence, there were rumors in Comayagua about a clash between army soldiers and guerrillas early Saturday morning. The guerrillas were allegedly driving the trucks with the arms shipment intended for the Salvadoran guerrillas. The army is strictly controlling the area where the new seizure took place since it happens to be the same area formerly used to transship weapons. The Honduran Army is intent on stopping activities that use national territory for such purposes.

COMMUNIQUE ON REPORTED BASES NEGOTIATIONS

PA151508 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Mar 82 p 3

[Official communique issued by the Ministry of the Presidency in Tegucigalpa on 5 March]

[Text] In view of local and international reports about U.S. military bases in our territory, the Information Office of the Ministry of the Presidency of Honduras [title as published] reports the following to the Honduran people and the international community.

1. The U.S. Government has notified the Honduran Government of the plan to include in the U.S. budget of the 1983 fiscal year, an allocation to undertake improvements in airfields of various countries of the Caribbean Basin, including our country.

2. Our government has also been asked to give its consent for negotiations to begin on this proposal. On this, nothing can be stated since such negotiations have so far not begun.

3. The Honduran Government does not have any knowledge about an offer of the U.S. Government or any other country to establish "military bases" in Honduran territory.

4. The Honduran Government will base its action in this case, as in any other, on the defense of the national interests and the principles and procedures established in the constitution and laws of the country.

5. The Honduran people will be informed, in due time, of the results of this initiative.

NICARAGUA

COMMANDER ORTEGA ADDRESS TO JUNTA DIRECTORATE

Rights Suspension Decree

PA160450 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0250 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Speech by Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega Saavedra from the Heroes room of the government palace in the presence of the members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and the FSLN National Directorate -- live]

[Text] Today, the courses of the Sandinist people's militias have resumed and we believed that it was necessary to gather with a representative group of our armed and organized people in the Sandinist people's militias to discuss certain topics of great interest to the nation.

Last night, two bridges were blown up. Explosive charges were placed on those bridges and detonated. One of the bridges, the bridge over the Negro River on the highway to El Guasaule was totally destroyed. The other bridge, over the Coco River, on the highway to Ocotal, was partially destroyed. We have several photos of the bridges that were destroyed that may be distributed to the local and foreign press. An act of this kind -- if it were not accompanied by another series of acts linked to a powerful country, the United States of America -- would possibly be of some importance, criminal counter-revolutionary acts, but would not have the importance that it has because it is accompanied by other acts.

We know about the plans of aggression against our people that have been prepared; the reports that have been made of these plans; and, most seriously, the U.S. authorities' silence and tacit and at times open acceptance and strengthening of those plans. We have made every efforts to face this situation with the greatest calmness, maturity and patience. We are not going to exhaust this calmness, this maturity and patience. We will always have more patience. However, we sill have to find some answers in order to defend our fatherland in an orderly manner. The members of the FSLN National Directorate and the members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction have met today and we have decided to announce certain measures to our people. We are going to read a decree of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Nicaragua that will become a law of the republic from this very moment. It reads as follows:

The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, considering;

1. That the plans for aggression directed against our fatherland are becoming increasingly specific and are designed to disrupt the nation's peace, to destroy our productive system and the country's physical infrastructure, to pave the way for an escalation of counter-revolutionary military attacks, and consequently to try to replace the people's power with a Somozist regime.

2. That in the past few weeks, important disclosures have been made regarding the existence of covert plans directed by the U.S. secret apparatus in complicity with bands of former Somozist guardsmen and counterrevolutionary groups based in Miami and Honduras -- all of this, moreover, with the support of some Latin American military regimes. These plans include, among other things, the training of an international mercenary force to carry out, from Honduras, military attacks, sabotage and terrorist acts in Nicaragua; large-scale financing of counterrevolutionary bands, paramilitary groups from various Latin American nations and rightist political and labor organizations inside Nicaragua to participate in acts of economic and political destabilization, and establish a climate for armed aggression.

3. That these plans have already had concrete results, such as the destruction, on Sunday, 14 March, of the bridge over the Negro River on the highway that leads to the border post at El Guasaule in Chinandega Department and the partial destruction of the brudge at the entrance to Ocotal over the highway that leads to the Las Manos border post in Nueva Segovia Department.

These actions were carried out by criminals based in Honduras. The destruction of these bridges is in line with the sinister plans that, according to the U.S. press, have already been approved to destroy and obstruct means of communication in Nicaragua which are allegedly used to take weapons to El Salvador. All this is a pretext for aggression against the heroic people of Nicaragua.

4. That other abortive criminal plans, such as the destruction of the national cement factory and the refinery and other plans that have been carried out such as the explosion of a bomb in an Aeronica airplane in the airport in Mexico and the explosion of another bomb in the terminal of Sandino airport in Managua are deeds that confirm these and other plans.

5. That is is the duty of the revolutionary government and of the entire nation to devote all its moral, political, social, economic and human energy to the defense of the fatherland and the revolution to prevent acts of terror and destabilization, which only seek to wrest from the people and workers their revolutionary history and right achieved with bloodshed and heroism, to prevent them from building a new society in peace, free of misery and oppression.

Therefore, making use of its power, it decrees:

Article 1. The constitutional rights and guarantees established in decree No 52 of 21 August 1979 are suspended throughout the entire national territory, except as stipulated in paragraph 2 of Article 49 of the same decree. [applause, shouts]

Article 2. The present suspension of rights and guarantees is for a period of 30 days which can be extended according to the existing conditions in the country.

Article 3. This decree supersedes decree No 312 of the law of economic and social emergency and will be effective as of the moment of its publication by any communication media, without detriment to its subsequent publication in the official daily LA GACETA.

Issued in the City of Managua on 15 March 1982, year of unity in the face of aggression. [applause] [chanting of slogans]

This decree means that we are establishing the law of national emergency, in order to protect the revolution, to save it from the counterrevolutionaries. We will not give opportunities to those criminals who are conspiring against our people. They will not base their activities on all the existing freedoms, as they have done previous to this decree.

Freedoms are not being restricted, because it is not freedom to allow these criminals to be called armed opposition. We cannot have freedom in which our means of communication, which in the long run are paid for by the people -- although they may appear to be private information media, these media are financed by the people -- we cannot allow these information media to be used as instruments to support a counterrevolution.

This means that this information media in this country will be regulated, controlled, censured or however the enemies of our revolution want to call it. [shouting]

This means that these criminal Somozist guards who were captured and on certain occasions released, will be left without the possibility of being released. [shouting]

That is to say we are making a necessary effort. We know that this will mean a campaign of slander and libel against our revolution. But we cannot be fools. We are compelled to defend power. We are compelled to defend it with our rifles and laws. Today we are using the laws and rifles to defend this power of the people. [shouting]

It is important for us to understand the purpose of the emergency law. With this we seek to cut off the hands of our enemies, as far as we can, because we know they exist [words indistinct]. We are also giving those who have made a mistake and have been solidary with the enemy without realizing it, a chance to rectify their attitude. This is a chance to rectify their attitude. This is their great opportunity.

This emergency law means that we are going to reply to the mobilizations demanded by the revolution's defense in an orderly but generalized way. We have to do it in a way that will not affect the country's normal life. It is not a matter of closing down movies, or taking the kind of exceptional measures taken by gorillas when they see themselves in danger. It is a matter of implementing regulatory measures which will tend to control counterrevolutionary activities. This will not allow them to have a sounding board here. Therefore, with this we are not interested in affecting the country's normal life.

Naturally, the country's normal life will be affected to the extent we are attacked or invaded. Naturally, a large-scale attack would compel us to take measures of another kind.

These are the first steps we are taking in preparation for any possibility. We are merely fulfilling our duty to defend the people and the revolution. We are willing to take all the risks involved in acting firmly. We have said, that, in this critical situation we are experiencing, we are ready to hold a dialogue, we are willing to negotiate.

But how do they react? They place bombs, destroy our bridges and make more threats. Perhaps they believe that we will be afraid and will accept their pressures and impositions. Or perhaps that we will flee as Somoza did. They cannot imagine the morale of our people. Our enemies cannot understand that there are mothers here with their children in their arms, like the companera doing her revolutionary duty as a mother, militia member and Nicaraguan. [applause]

We will not tire of repeating that we want peace and we will continue striving for peace. But let them know we are ready to die, that we are not going to surrender. Our people are determined to bury our enemies here if they invade our territory. Our people will strive for victory and are not afraid to sacrifice if it means attaining a victory. [shouting]

Mobilization at the national level is important. We must strengthen defense and production. Production is a fundamental aspect in the defense of our revolution. If they are going to blockade us, let them blockade us. We have enough land here to plant beans and to eat beans. [applause]

These measures, these measures which we are obliged to take to mobilize our resources, our people in the task of defense are extraordinary measures which logically imply some negative effects in our normal plans, because if we have necessary machinery to build schools and build hospitals, now we have to run this machinery to build trenches, to dig trenches, because the arms of our men are not enough and we have to help them out with this machinery. And the same effort of thousands of Nicaraguans engaged in productive tasks must be diverted to the task of defense. In other words, this has its negative effects, which we will strive to control as much as possible, so that it will mean the least possible effort. But you must realize that our situation is not normal, although we are going to make efforts to maintain the greatest level of normalcy. And it is not our fault, but is the fault of those who are threatening us and who are accompanying these threats with specific aggression.

Concluding, I wanted to say that the FSLN leadership and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction have the confidence, the security and the conviction that we will emerge victorious, that we will come out well. This is the same conviction and the same confidence that we had when we were a fistful of men and victory seemed far away, even when we were in the months immediately before the definitive triumph, when Somoza bombed all our cities, when his criminal guard did not stop killing children, women, the elderly and men and when some people thought that Somoza and his guardsmen were going to defeat us. But the people thought and were confident, even as they saw their brothers, their children, their relatives fall in battle. They had the confidence and certainty that we would triumph. We have this same certainty now, even though the enemy is bigger, but our friends are also bigger and our morale, above all, is bigger.

Free Fatherland [crowd responds: or death]

FOREIGN MINISTRY SENDS NOTE TO U.S. PEOPLE

PA160029 Managua Radio Corporation in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Mar 82

["Note addressed to senators, congressmen and the people of the United States of America from the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Nicaragua," issued on 15 March -- read by announcer]

[Text] On Sunday, 14 March, terrorists who are experts in placing and detonating explosives and whose base of operations is in Honduras, blew up a bridge over the Negro River on the highway leading to the border post of Guasaule on the border with Honduras. They also damaged another bridge in Ocotal on the highway that leads to the border post of Las Manos, also on the border with Honduras.

Our government's attention is drawn to the fact that these terrorist acts coincide with the plans that, according to the Washington POST and the New York TIMES, have been approved by the Reagan administration to attack Nicaragua and destabilize our government, under the pretext of interrupting the alleged flow of arms from Nicaragua to El Salvador. The destruction and obstruction of means of communication, as in the case of our highways, is part of these plans.

We hope that U.S. citizens of good will like you, will reject and denounce these actions that run contrary to the desires for peace of the U.S. people, whose consciences are opposed to their government's participation in criminal, covert operations.

Plans of this kind force our government to take legal measures to protect our institutional life as well as the order and internal security of our fatherland.

[Signed] Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, foreign minister.

TARDENCILLA RECEIVES HERO'S WELCOME IN MANAGUA

PA160220 [Editorial report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1801 GMT on 15 March 1982 begins a live relay from Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua to cover the arrival of Nicaraguan citizen Orlando Jose Tardencilla from Washington, where he had been taken to testify about Nicaragua's involvement in the Salvadoran conflict.

The station reports that when Tardencilla gets off the Aeronica plane at 1802 GMT, he is welcomed by Carlos Carrion, member of the FSLN National Secretariat and FSLN official in charge of the 19 July Sandinist Youth; guerrilla Commander Dora Maria Tellez, a member of the FSLN National Secretariat and vice president of the State Council; Guerrilla Commander Omar Cabezas, member of the FSLN National Secretariat and FSLN official in charge of mass organizations, and "other members of the 19 July Sandinist Youth," as well as by a large crowd.

The announcer notes that when Tardencilla raises his fist in greeting, the crowd responds by shouting "people's power," and other revolutionary slogans. Tardencilla then proceeds to the airport protocol office where, according to the announcer, he is welcomed "as a great Nicaraguan citizen who has confronted the imperialist aggressor and dealt it a slap in the face."

The relay is briefly suspended at 1810 GMT and resumes at 1812 GMT from the airport flag room, where Tardencilla is about to hold a brief news conference. He is presented to local and foreign newsmen by Commander Omar Cabezas as a "worthy exponent of our people's dignity and of the bravery of Nicaraguan youths." Cabezas then outlines Tardencilla's recent "dramatic" experience, saying that after he was taken prisoner in El Salvador, he was "kidnapped by the terrorist international" and taken to Washington so that his presence in El Salvador could be "manipulated" to the detriment of his people.

While briefly answering other questions about his experiences in El Salvador and Washington, Tardencilla reports that when asked by a State Department official why he had not testified in a manner favorable to U.S. interests, he replied: "I would rather die than lose my identity." In answer to the final question, he reports that in the United States he was kept handcuffed from his arrival in Miami until just before the Washington press conference.

At the end of the press conference, the announcer states that Tardencilla, accompanied by the representatives of the 19 July Sandinist Youth, will march to downtown Managua to the tomb of Carlos Fonseca and later to the government house of the Nicaraguan junta. The live relay ends at 1828 GMT.

REBELS DOWN TWO BRIDGES NEAR HONDURAN BORDER

PA152255 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2134 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Managua, 15 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Interior Ministry announced today that two bridges were attacked yesterday, Sunday, with explosives. The bridge over the Negro River, in the country's northwest, was destroyed by explosives placed by counterrevolutionary elements. The bridge over the Coco River, near the city of Ocotal, 225 km north of Managua, was partially damaged by an explosion, the authorities have noted.

The Nicaraguan Armed Forces stated in a radio network that the attacks on the bridges "are in line" with the plans of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States to destroy the Sandinist revolution. Two-way traffic on the two bridges was reestablished today at 0800 (1400 GMT). The Sandinist government has sent a note to the U.S. Government noting that the terrorists who are demolitions experts and who attacked the bridges "have their base in Honduras."

The bridge over the Negro River leads to El Guasaule, on the border with Honduras, and the bridge near Ocotal leads to Las Manos, also on the border with Honduras.

The Foreign Ministry's note states: "The fact that these terrorist actions are in line with plans that, according to the Washington POST and the New York TIMES, the Reagan administration has approved to attack Nicaragua and to destabilize our government -- with the intention of interrupting the alleged arms traffic from Nicaragua to El Salvador -- has caught our government's attention." The Nicaraguan note adds that plans such as those uncovered in the United States force our Sandinist government to adopt legal measures "to protect our institutional life and the internal order and security of our fatherland."

LA PRENSA RESPONDS TO CHARGE OF CIA INFLUENCE

PA151340 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Mar 82 p 12

[Editorial: "Replaying to a KGB Script]

[Text] BARRICADA today publishes some statements by one Fred Landis, an expert in "covert action" -- that is espionage -- accusing LA PRENSA of being infiltrated by the CIA through IAPA, like Chile's EL MERCURIO.

Mr Landis' reasoning, in addition to being capricious, is totally false and disrespectful of the memory of the national hero and martyr of public freedoms, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. Landis asserts that when a paper becomes a member of IAPA, [Inter-American Press Asscoiation], it places itself under the influence of the CIA, and we all know that Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal was a director of IAPA, attended its meetings year after year, and was the one who, with pride and honesty, introduced on the front page of LA PRENSA the slogan it still carries: member of IAPA.

We are surprised that a son of his, Carlos Fernando Chamorro, has permitted such an offense against his father to be published in a paper that he directs. We are surprised that the official FSLN newspaper has stained the memory of the hero and martyr of public freedoms, thus introducing a contradictory policy of becoming indignant when the name of one of the martyrs is mentioned but directly attacking the memory of another martyr, as sacred as any other who has shed his blood and dedicated his life to overthrow the Somozist dictatorship and to seek freedom for the Nicaraguan people.

The other arguments used by Landis to prove, according to him, that LA PRENSA is being manipulated or controlled by the CIA, are that "at the San Diego convention, IAPA appointed Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios to its board of directors when he was not even owner or editor of a paper, but just because the CIA needed him because of the reputation of his martyr father." After Chamorro Barrios' appointment he became deputy director of LA PRENSA and was promoted to the IAPA's board of directors executive committee, according to Landis.

All these statements are lies. In the first place, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios was made LA PRENSA's stockholder by his father, before his death, naturally; in the second place, when the San Diego convention was held, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios was already director and editor of the newspaper. Therefore, Mr Landis lied, and his lie, even though it may appear to be the truth in other countries, will never deceive Nicaraguans. Here we all know that Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios used to write regularly for LA PRENSA and that part of the problem which led some people to leave LA PRENSA and to found another newspaper was the fact that Pedro Joaquin used to write with an independent judgment, following his father's editorial line. BARRICADA'S own director, Carlos Fernando Chamorro, can vouch for the fact that Pedro Joaquin became LA PRENSA's stockholder by his father's action. Everything else expressed by Mr Landis could be answered with a subliminal rionsito [no further explained] like the one we did once. One only needs a wild imagination and a good dose of paranoia, along with delusions of persecution, to see connections, insinuations and attacks where there are only specific facts.

U.S. LIES CITED ON CUBAN-SOVIET INVOLVEMENT

PA151315 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Mar 82

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Nazi chief of propaganda Joseph Goebbels used to say that a lie repeated 1,000 times eventually resembles truth. That is the philosophy of the fascists, who hate and despise the peoples. It is, therefore, the philosophy upheld by U.S. imperialists. The imperialists lie systematically in an effort to conceal their misdeeds for the purpose of deceiving the peoples and justifying their aggressions, exploitation and crimes. Seldom, however, has a U.S. Government lied so much and so shamelessly as the current Washington government.

In the last few months, in an effort to justify its interference and aggression against the people of Central America and the Caribbean, the U.S. Government has spread so many lies that it has repeatedly contradicted itself and has often looked like the biggest of fools. The members of President Reagan's government team -- he himself included -- seem to have engaged in a competition to see who lies the most. Of course, when Reagan, Alexander Haig, Thomas Enders, Jeane Kirkpatrick and other U.S. officials lie, they do so with the intention of achieving what Goebbels recommended; turning their lies into truths.

The lies spread by the imperialists and their many means of propaganda have been unable to conceal the gross U.S. intervention in El Salvador and its equally gross threats against Nicaragua and Cuba. However, in an effort to justify those threats and interventions, the U.S. rulers have fabricated the lie -- and they keep repeating it with their habitual cynicism -- that Nicaragua, Cuba and the Soviet Union are providing military aid to the Salvadoran revolutionaries and are responsible for the serious tensions in Central America and the Caribbean. The Cuban and Nicaraguan Governments have emphatically denied these assertions by the imperialists and have repeatedly urged the Washington government to present the evidence which it claims to have in connection with that alleged aid in the form of weapons and military advisers for the heroic Salvadoran revolutionary combatants. However, since one cannot present evidence of something that does not exist, President Reagan's government has not responded to these urgings, and limits itself to repeating its lies and fabricating still others.

A few days ago, the media controlled by the United States made a big to-do about an alleged Nicaraguan soldier who, according to the imperialists, had been captured in El Salvador and had declared that he had been sent there by the Sandinist government to help the revolutionaries.

According to Washington, this was reliable evidence of Nicaragua's support for the FMLN. They announced then that they would publicly present the alleged Nicaraguan soldier. But both the lie and the alleged soldier got out of their hands and everything was quickly explained. He was a Nicaraguan student who wanted to return peacefully and normally to his country, but whom the imperialists had tried to use in their deceitful publicity campaigns.

The most recent fabrication by the Washington government regarding Cuba's and Nicaragua's alleged aid for the Salvadoran revolutionaries has turned out to be just as ridiculous. Last Wednesday, the U.S. Department of State announced that along with some 20 former U.S. Government officials, it had analyzed what it termed irrefutable evidence of foreign intervention in El Salvador. The comedy continued with the publication of the statements made afterward by some of these former U.S. officials.

Former Secretary of State William Rogers asserted that it is important for the U.S. people to understand that their government is telling the truth.

Robert Strauss, a former adviser of President James Carter, said that the elements proving foreign intervention in El Salvador were quite impressive. And fiery Zbignew Brzezinski, another of Carter's former advisers, commented that the evidence presented by Secretary of State Alexander Haig and CIA Director William Casey was disquieting.

The end of this new film by Reagan and his government cast could not have been any more revealing or ridiculous: According to the State Department, all the former officials who had participated in the analysis of the alleged evidence of Cuban-Nicaraguan interference in El Salvador had agreed that this information is too delicate to be released to the public.

We really doubt there is a single person in the whole world who would accept as valid this ridiculous conclusion.

GUINEA-BISSAU PRESIDENT ENDS OFFICIAL VISIT

FL151903 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Mar 82

[Text] Joao Bernardo Vieira, secretary general of the African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau [PAIG] and president of the Council of the Revolution of the brother country, has concluded his visit to Cuba. Our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, was at the Jose Marti International Airport to see the African leader off. During his stay in our country, Joao Bernardo Vieira was awarded the Jose Marti national order and toured areas of historic, economic and educational interest in Havana and the special Isle of Youth municipality with a high-ranking delegation accompanying him.

Our reporter, Rolando de la (Rivera), has the following account of our people's farewell at the airport: [Begin recording] Reporting from the Jose Marti International Airport for "Informacion Politica": A large crowd gave a warm farewell to Joao Bernardo Vieira who has just concluded an official and friendly visit to Cuba. Seeing him off were our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, other full and alternate members of the PCC Politburo, secretariat and Central Committee, state and government leaders and the diplomatic corps accredited to our country. Human warmth was the major characteristic of this sendoff. It clearly illustrated the close ties between the PAIG and the PCC, our governments and peoples. [end recording]

Agreements Signed

FL160142 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Mar 82

[Text] (Before) leaving our country, the delegation led by Joao Bernardo Vieira, secretary General of the African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau [PAIG], participated in one of its last official activities in Cuba. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, and Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of the Council of the Revolution of Guinea-Bissau, were present at the signing of agreements between the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Five agreements were signed: A consular agreement, one on trade, another on cultural cooperation signed by the education ministers of the two countries, Jose Ramon Fernandez for Cuba and Mario Cabral for Guinea-Bissau, as well as an agreement on reciprocal juridical and judicial assistance signed by Osvaldo Dorticos, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of justice, for the Cuban side; and by Fidelis Cabral, minister of justice, for Guinea-Bissau.

Lastly, a cooperation agreement between the PAIG and the PCC was signed by Jesus Montane, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, and Samba Lamine, a member of the PAIG Politburo.